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EMILY DUNDORNE;

OR,

THE EFFECTS OF *EARLY IMPRESSIONS:*

A NOVEL,
IN THREE VOLUMES.

BY MRS. THOMSON,
AUTHOR OF ROBERT AND ADELA DE MONTFORT,
EXCESSIVE SENSIBILITY, FATAL FOLLIES,
THE LABYRINTH OF LIFE, &c. &c.

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

... ..

EMILY DUNDORNE;

OR,

THE EFFECTS OF

EARLY IMPRESSIONS.

CHAPTER XXI.

WHILE Emily was involved in an unceasing round of gaiety and dissipation, and agitated by various and contending passions, her sister, by adoption and affection, passed her tranquil days at the Parsonage of Easham. The time she had spent at Lady Auriol's was more and more obliterated from her mind. Old habits and ideas soon returned on revisiting the haunts and the

VOL. III. B objects

objects most familiar to her in the earlier part of her life, and if she thought at all with regret on Park Place or London, it was for the society of her affectionate Emily. Yet she was consoled under this loss by the frequent letters she received from her, and by the consideration that it was natural and proper that Miss Dundorne should not be sunk in an obscure village, but appear on a theatre that might afford more extensive scope to the exercise of her virtues, and a proper and generous use of her ample fortune. Though Sarah Moncrief was but young in years, she might be said to be old and experienced in those domestic duties which, discharged with alacrity and grace, bestow on womankind, in the eye of the true moral critic, the most alluring charm. The death of her mother had, in her tender heart and well-cultivated mind, consigned her father to her care at a period of life usually given up to
sprightly

sprightly levity. The sympathetic and social affections, by the wisest and most beneficent design, gain strength through indulgence. The more she attended to her father, the more she was impelled to perform nameless little services, and to prevent every want. Her father, on his part, enjoyed the purest and most inexpressible pleasure in the dutiful affection of his daughter, and the perfect propriety of her whole deportment and conduct: and this pleasure was still heightened by a conscious and just self-esteem and applause when he reflected that all this was the natural fruit of those seeds of morality and religion which he had sown in due season. Her time was regularly divided, and to each portion was assigned some occupation of domestic œconomy, or ingenious relaxation and amusement; such as walking abroad with her father to call on a neighbour or a friend; in making a few visits; in reading books,

or in writing letters: not a moment of her time but was appropriated to some purpose. Thus it passed pleasantly away; thus she was preserved from the great torment of idleness; and thus good spirits were continually excited by continual activity and exertion; and thus an engaging affability and cheerfulness of disposition was sweetly blended with an habitual gravity of carriage.

With all these qualities, Sarah Moncrief had not drawn forth any declaration of love; although it be impossible, even in a frivolous and corrupt age, but such a character must have inspired sentiments at least nearly allied to love, good-will, affection, and esteem. Perhaps the country swains were overawed by an excess of respect for so accomplished a person: but every parent, particularly every tender and prudent mother, would often say, "I know of no one so likely to make a good wife

as

as Miss Moncrief." Thus Miss Moncrief passed her days at Eastham.

Emily had brought herself by degrees to consider Lord Auriol as the man to whom she was destined to give her hand.

Many losses at the gaming table and other irregularities led his Lordship to be now particularly attentive to Miss Dundorne, whom he saw followed and admired by every young man of fashion in town: and though many of these admirers were actuated by the same motives with his Lordship, yet he was consoled for giving up his liberty with the idea of creating envy in the breasts of the discharged suitors.

The bosom of Delme was torn by anguish and despair. He witnessed the only woman for whom he entertained a sincere regard about to give her hand to an object totally unworthy of her. He had frequently seen Emily at Mr. Aston's, and met her at other places,

but had never been able to converse with her alone, as Lady Auriol had contrived it so that Miss Dundorne should never go abroad unattended by either herself or Miss Auriol, who, as she could not bear the superiority both in beauty and fortune of Emily, contrived to vex her as often as it was in her power.

Emily herself was unhappy, and she sometimes thought that she observed something of melancholy in the air of Delme. She was much hurt by observing that he paid her less attention than was usual when she first met him in London. She would say to herself, after having visited Miss Aston, where Augustus generally spent his unengaged hours, why should I expect Mr. Delme to consider me in any other light than he does Miss Auriol or any other lady of his acquaintance? I must soon banish him from my remembrance. Was Lord Auriol like him, then my lot would

would indeed be enviable: as it is, I have nothing to hope.

Mr. Aston, who was the constant adviser of Augustus, and had been ~~as~~ constant an observer of Emily, with pain saw that there was now not one ray of hope left for his young friend. He yielded to the commonly-received opinion, that female vanity will make any sacrifices to attain the accomplishments of its object. He was now sorry that he had encouraged him to hope that perseverance might remove the obstacles to his wishes. Mr. Aston had, unknown to Delme, spoken to Lady Auriol on the subject of his regard, and had been assured by that Lady that his suit would be rejected with scorn by Emily, who, though lately raised to nobility, entertained a proper regard to the pride of ancestry. At the same time, she hinted that Lord Auriol, she believed, had made that impression on Miss Dundorne,

which it had been the wish of her deceased parent should be effected.

Mr. Aston returned home much chagrined, though he had expected such an answer. He determined to persuade Delme to leave London, and so, by changing the scene, to forget her, who, it was evident, thought not of him.

Mr. Aston now gave up his good opinion concerning the natural good sense of Emily, who, in possession of an affluent fortune, gave that and herself to a dissipated man of quality, in preference to one who adored her, and who had all the qualities and virtues of which the other was destitute.

Mr. Aston never recollected, that though Mr. Delme in secret loved Emily, he had never given her to understand that an union with her made the first wish of his heart.

Delme came to South Audley Street one morning in a desponding state, as he had just been informed by an acquaintance

acquaintance that all matters were settled betwixt Emily and her noble suitor, and that the wedding was to take place when they quitted town, which was intended at no greater distance than a month or six weeks. He cursed his fate, and niggardly fortune, that forbade his ever entering the lists with Lord Auriol: for he could hardly bring himself to believe that an amiable and deserving young woman, like her whom he adored, could give her affections, knowing as she did the vices of Lord Auriol..

He determined, in a state of absolute despair, to know his fate from the mouth of Emily herself. After this was decided, for he entertained no hopes of success, he determined to buy a commission in some regiment that was ordered into foreign service, where he hoped to have a period put to a life which he was unable any longer to support.

He inquired of Elizabeth Aston when she expected to see her friend Miss Dundorne, Lady Auriol elect, he said. She informed him that she was engaged in a party to the opera with her for that very evening; and that if he would behave well, he should be her beau. But as to what he said about Emily's becoming Lady Auriol, she could hardly give credit to the report, as it was scarcely three weeks since Miss Dundorne had declared her dislike to his Lordship in very pointed terms.

This information raised the drooping spirits of Delme, and he accepted joyfully the offer of being the attendant on Miss Aston, for whom he entertained a sincere friendship. Delme thought the hours long ere the wished-for moment arrived that was to bring him into the presence of Emily. After dinner Mr. Aston and Augustus drank pretty freely to the health of Miss Dundorne, and also to the success of his suit, which
he

he told Mr. Aston he was now determined at last to prefer. He could not bear to lose Emily without one effort, thought it was evident it must be fruitless.

Soon after they were seated came Emily, attended by Miss and Lord Auriol. Emily inquired kindly after the health of Augustus, and also what had so long deprived them of his visits. This kindness on their meeting added fresh flame to the torch of hope already lighted in the breast of Delme. He replied, that had he once conceived that she gave him a thought amidst the gay scenes by which she was constantly surrounded, it would have revived him, had he been confined by the most severe indisposition.

Lord Auriol said, "Upon my soul, Delme, I should not wonder if you was to carry off some well-jointured dowager, for really you have acquired the art of flattering most agreeably."

"Does your Lordship really think so?" replied he. "Well, we shall never be rivals, I hope; for there will never be any competition between us on the score of sincerity."

"Sincerity!" repeated Lord Auriol. "Heavens! what an antiquated word, it is almost obsolete. We are not so vulgar in our addresses, as to talk of such stuff."

"Nor, I believe, my Lord, is it much in practice in the present day. What say you, ladies? as you are generally allowed to be good observers of the conduct of our sex."

At this moment, when the conversation began to wear rather a serious aspect, in came Lady Dayrell and her sister.

"Oh!" said Lord Auriol, "your Ladyship is come in good time: Mr. Delme was a-going to give us a lecture on sincerity, which he asserts not to be much in practice in the present day."

"Well,"

"Well," replied she, "he is right, nobody is sincere; one don't expect it; but then, in exchange, every body is polite."

"Does Miss Dundorne approve of the exchange?" asked Delme.

"No, indeed, I do not, and I am sorry to learn that this virtue is out of fashion. Nothing can make up for its loss in my opinion."

"For heaven's sake, don't speak so loud," said Lord Auriol: "I shall be supposed to be a chaperon to a bevy of country cousins, if any one hears you."

"Surely I am at liberty," replied Emily, "to express my sentiments on a question asked; and I doubt not but mine are those of most of the ladies of the party; but your Lordship has taken the liberty to contradict me more than once before this evening."

Miss Auriol said, that he was grown quite

quite rude, and must have kept strange company of late.

Lady Dayrell engaged Emily to spend the next day with her: "in short," said she, "I expect to see all the party. I know that Mr. Delme will excuse me, as he will not like to meet Sir Sampson Gillian."

"I beg your Ladyship's pardon," replied he; "and though a prior engagement would have made it impossible to have availed myself of your Ladyship's invitation, yet give me leave to say, that I never did or ever shall avoid meeting Sir Sampson, whom I consider as greatly below the notice of any man of honour."

"Truly heroic, by heaven!" exclaimed Lord Auriol.

Delme felt the colour rush into his face. Emily also observed this, and feared that some unpleasant quarrel might ensue; to avoid which, she offered

to

to go with Lady Dayrell to her box to pay her respects to Mrs. and Miss Wilson. Having given her hand to Lord Auriol, he led her out in a kind of triumph.

By this act of Emily's, which was occasioned by her fears lest Delme and Lord Auriol should at last come to a downright quarrel, the former gentleman was confirmed in the idea that Miss Dundorne gave Lord Auriol the preference, which she had thus given him to understand. Her quitting the box where he was, as he thought, shewed that she was displeased. He determined as soon as his Lordship should return that he would quit the Opera-house, and then London for ever, as soon as he possibly could settle his affairs with an officer whom he had entered into a treaty for the purchase of a regiment about to embark for the West Indies. He now determined to conclude the bargain out of hand.

Lady

Lady Dayrell's box was soon filled with gentlemen, and Delme had the mortification to see Emily in high spirits, chatting to and receiving the admiration of all around her. He could not quit the box, and leave Miss Aston and Miss Auriol unprotected: but he turned many a weary look towards the door, in hopes to be relieved, if not by Lord Auriol, who had taken a chair by the side of Emily, yet by Mr. Aston, who had promised his daughter to follow her as soon as he had dispatched some letters.

It was not until the commencement of the last ballet that Mr. Aston made his appearance, and then he came to announce most disagreeable news. This was no other than that Lady Auriol was suddenly seized with an apoplectic fit, from which she had been with difficulty recovered, and requested the return of her family immediately.

Miss Auriol was greatly agitated, and requested Mr. Aston to go immediately
and

and inform her cousin. Delme offered to attend her to the carriage, where she could wait until she was joined by her friends; but she on second thought rather chose to go with Mr. Aston to Lady Dayrell's box. Wishing Miss Aston a good night, she left Delme and Elizabeth together. Miss Aston was not at all pleased with the conduct of Emily, considering her quitting the box, after making the party, as behaving towards her with unprovoked rudeness.

Miss Aston was unacquainted with what passed in the thoughts of Emily, whose mind was so pre-occupied by terror for the consequences, should any quarrel take place between Augustus and Lord Auriol, that she never gave a thought to any thing, but how to avoid any more altercation; and as she could think of no other method but flight, she determined on this method without a moment's hesitation.

A general

A general silence took place until they reached home, when a servant informed them that Dr. Rowley was in the house, and had very little hopes.

CHAPTER XXII.

EMILY and Miss Auriol joined Lord Dundee in the drawing-room; his Lordship staid behind asking many questions as to the manner of his mother's being taken. He was informed that she was playing at piquet with her brother, when she fell back in her chair apparently dead: that luckily the carriage of Dr. Rowley was standing in the Square, and to the immediate assistance of that gentleman it was owing that she still breathed.

The

The Doctor gave no hopes of her Ladyship's recovery, as he apprehended a relapse, which would certainly be fatal; but he recommended that she should be kept perfectly quiet and free from agitation; the least deviation from which would prove fatal.

Emily seemed infinitely more alarmed than Lord Auriol by the news of his mother's illness. Lady Dayrell was greatly shocked to hear of the sudden indisposition of Lady Auriol; but as sick chambers were insufferably tedious, she desired Emily to stay out the dance, as she could not be of any real service, and no doubt but proper assistance would be called in before they arrived. Lord Auriol would easily have been prevailed on; but Emily, who possessed great tenderness of disposition, could not hear of the danger of one whom she considered in the light of a second parent without feeling uncommon agitation. She said, that, if possible, she would
with

wish for wings to convey her to Grosvenor Square, rather than that she should be delayed one moment, and wishing her friends all possible amusement, she hastened to the carriage, as she had been informed that Miss Auriol impatiently waited for their joining her.

Lady Auriol's woman came down and said, that her Lady was very anxious to see Lord Auriol, and had asked if he was yet returned. Dr. Rowley said, if so, it might be proper for his Lordship to wait on his mother; but advised him to stay as little with her as possible.

Her Ladyship expressed great satisfaction on seeing her son. She ordered all her attendants to leave the room, and then adjured him in the most affecting manner to quit his follies, and by uniting himself to Miss Dundorne, insure his happiness in both this and the world to come. She now exacted a solemn promise, that, should Emily consent to unite her fate with his, he would take
the

the earliest opportunity to complete her last wishes.

Lord Auriol endeavoured to put off this discourse, by assuring his mother that he would, when she was recovered, do every thing consistent with her inclinations; that at present she must permit him to retire, as Dr. Rowley ordered that he should not remain too long in her apartment.

Lady Auriol knew too well that this was perhaps the last opportunity she should ever have of seeing him; and as her mind was fixed on the accomplishment of this her favourite scheme for the aggrandizement of her son, she would not part with him without his solemn promise to receive the hand of Emily. As soon as she had extorted this, she desired that her brother and Miss Dundorne might attend her.

She now reminded Emily of the dying wish of her own parents, that she should marry Lord Auriol. "And now, my dear,"

dear," said she, "you have the addition of my earnest entreaties, that you will ratify by your consent the treaty so much wished. I trust that my son will, in a course of years, be found not undeserving of so much excellence." Here she paused, quite overcome by the fatigue of speaking and by apparent agitation.

Emily, quite overcome by the present melancholy scene, wept so much that she was unable to answer. At length she took the cold hand of her friend, and pressed it to her lips, saying, "Do with me as you please; but, oh! compose yourself—on this depends your valuable life."

"I shall be composed when I am assured that you will accept my son as your future protector," replied Lady Auriol. "Give me but this assurance, and my blessing awaits you both."

"If Lord Auriol shall solicit an union with me," said Emily, "I then promise that your wishes and that of my revered parents shall be fulfilled." Here Emily
sunk

sunk almost lifeless into the arms of her Ladyship's woman, who stood beside her.

Lord Dundee, fearing lest his sister should exert herself too much, and having accomplished what he knew she so much wished, now retired, and joined his nephew in the drawing-room, while Miss Auriol attended the bed of her aunt.

Emily retired to her chamber overwhelmed with grief for the illness of Lady Auriol. She had additional cause for sorrow when she thought of the solemn engagement into which she had been betrayed in a moment of extreme agitation.

How could she be other than alarmed when she thought on the profligate life that Lord Auriol had led ever since she had known him; and yet, knowing this, she had consented to become his wife, should he ever solicit her to perform the engagement. She fell on her knees,

knees and fervently prayed that the life of her most valued friend might be spared; and if not, that she might be endowed with constancy to perform her promise.

How did Emily wish that in this hour of severe trial she were near her dear friends at Eastham. However, as this was impossible, she sat down and wrote an account of the sorrow she was about to experience in the loss of Lady Auriol. After finishing the letter, she left it unsealed, hoping that in the morning some favourable symptom might appear, and that she might then be able to contradict the apprehensions of the preceding evening.

Alas! this was not the case; for the morning came, and every fear was confirmed by a second fit, in which her Ladyship expired.

Lord Auriol, instead of shewing a just sense of the loss of an indulgent parent, received the intelligence with uncon-

cern. Miss Auriol and Emily were indeed mourners: neither of these ladies quitted their chamber. Emily sat in a stupor of grief, quite overwhelmed by the load of obligation she had taken upon her. She considered herself bound to Lord Auriol as much as if the priest had pronounced the irrevokable sentence.

Beset as she was by entreaty, how could she embitter the last hour of a woman she loved and respected, especially when by so doing she also counteracted the express wishes of the authors of her being? On the other hand, had she not promised what might never be in her power to perform? Could she command her affections? If she could, would they ever be placed on Lord Auriol?

She sighed at the retrospect; yet to draw back was not now in her choice.

Sad and melancholy passed the hours in Grosvenor Square. On that day
week

week from that on which she died the remains of Lady Auriol were conveyed to the family vault at Park Place.

The next post brought Emily a letter fraught with sentiments of great piety and affection from Mr. Moncrief, advising her to be directed by Lord Dundee as to her future settlement.

The good Doctor, in giving this advice, followed the dictates of prudence; for, as Emily in her last letter had informed him that she had yielded to the wishes of his friend and patroness in promising her hand to her son, he considered that all advice that tended to lead her mind from this engagement was most improper, since it might be laying a foundation for dissatisfaction. It was certainly true, that he felt severely for the fate of a young and innocent creature, endowed with a mind alive to the finest feelings, yet doomed to meet in the partner, destined to go through life with her a cold indifference; while he

was only alive to the vices and propensities that disgrace our nature. He believed that his Lordship would be indifferent to her, because he had observed that it was only amongst the lowest orders of society that he found himself most at home.

In order to give her some little pleasure, he readily acceded to her request of having the company of his daughter for a few weeks, making this condition, that, when she returned, Emily should herself be the conductor.

Even in the midst of sorrow this letter raised the drooping spirits of Emily. To meet again with the sister of her affection carried a charm that bore down every unpleasant thought by an irresistible impulse.

Miss Auriol was not by any means a companion for Miss Dundorne. She had a mind cold and reserved, and which was only occupied by envy of the beautiful and rich heiress of the house of Dundorne,

Dundorne, in whom, at their first meeting, she had hoped to find an humble friend, whom she could mortify, whenever she was so inclined, with her own superiority. She now determined to remove farther from the view of Emily, by fixing her residence with a relation who resided chiefly in the country. Miss Auriol had a small independent fortune, which she inherited from her father, and Lady Auriol had by her will, made a considerable addition to this; so that Miss Auriol was now possessed of about six thousand pounds: a small sum for a modern woman of fashion; but certainly sufficient to the ease and comfort of one whose desires were bounded by prudence.

Lord Dundee consulted Emily as to her future destination, as he was too well acquainted with the proprieties of life to allow his ward to continue longer in the house of Lord Auriol than decency permitted.

Emily said, that if Mrs. Hornby could make it convenient to receive her, as she was a relation of Lady Auriol's family, she would be happy to go thither. Lord Dundee promised to manage this for his ward.

Indeed she might have remained long enough in Grosvenor Square, without receiving any interruption from his Lordship, who, no longer under restraint, gave a loose to the wildness of his own passions.

He left Grosvenor Square even before the remains of his mother were removed from thence, every evening as soon as it was dark, and often did not return until the next. If he came home, it was early in the morning, and then he slept through the day. He once sent his compliments to inquire after the ladies in the course of the week, during which they did not go abroad.

Miss Aston was a daily visitor to Emily, whom she found so much overwhelmed

whelmed with sorrow, that she feared for her health. Elizabeth endeavoured to rally her spirits often ; telling her that all the young men of her acquaintance were in actual despair at her seclusion. There is poor Delme, the picture of yourself, most woeful, I assure you, that did I not console him with the assurance of your re-appearance, he would die. "Oh!" said she, "I believe, I never told you, that he is about putting on a red coat, did I?"

Emily felt the colour mount up to her cheeks at this information.

"No," replied she ; "what has been the occasion of this determination?"

"What! why a certain lady of my acquaintance. Don't you know her?"

"Did *you* wish that Mr. Delme should enter the army?" asked Emily.

"He never asked me my opinion, or I should have decided plainly against such a step."

"It is you, Emily, who have placed the sword in his hand; and you only can turn it to a plough-share."

Emily's mind experienced such an assemblage of contending emotions as are not to be described. It is difficult to say which were predominant, joy or sorrow: they both took their turns, though, on a retrospection, the latter was a more settled guest.

"I hope that I have not given you pain by my news," said Miss Aston; for I declare you alarm me by your looks."

The first blush of surprise was succeeded by a livid paleness, that was now observed by Miss Aston. Elizabeth was not sorry for this, as she had a sincere friendship both for Emily and also Delme, and had often given a sigh to the passion he nourished, though evidently hopeless. She knew too much of the native softness of the female heart, not to think that, where that was interested

rested in any favourite object, much was to be expected by perseverance.

Elizabeth's heart exulted at the discovery that she had made, and she shortened her visit, in order to carry the glad tidings to her father, as, by so doing, she anticipated a triumph over him. He had lately expatiated largely on female vanity, and on the sacrifices it would make for its gratification. Even the best of you, he would say to his daughter, are not exempt from its influence. By many allusions, she knew that Emily's conduct, in giving a preference to Lord Auriol (as he supposed), to Delme occasioned his severe sarcasms against the sex.

On Miss Aston's return home, she flew to her father, who always received her with a smile.

"My dear Sir," said she, "you do not know how happy I am returned from the house of mourning. Augustus shall not wear the willow any longer."

“Why, what has happened? my love,” replied he: “is that animal, Lord Auriol, dead or married?”

“Neither; but I have found out that Emily feels a great partiality towards another person. And do you think when she is acquainted that that other person entertains a partiality towards her, she will throw herself away on an insignificant Lord, who cares no more for her than a straw? for I am sure, if he marries her, it is for her possessions.”

“Set a female to develop a female character, I have heard said, and they will accomplish, in a short time, what costs us a world of labour. But tell me,” continued Mr. Aston, “how you made this happy discovery, and let me judge.”

Miss Aston now related what had passed on her visit; owning that it was certainly only by looks that she formed her judgement; but that she was certain

tain Delme's fate was not so decided as he imagined.

Mr. Aston now devolved his censures on Augustus, who, he said, was too timid a lover. How should the girl know he was partial to her, unless he told her so? Did he expect that a lovely young heiress should court him? What is it to him whom she is designed for by a pack of interested guardians and relations, with his cursed delicacy, and such stuff? To whom does her own innocent and uncorrupted heart give the preference? This is the question.

CHAPTER XXIII.

IN this manner did the good Mr. Aston run on until Delme himself called on him, in order to go with him to the army agents to settle the terms of the purchase of the commission.

“Now,” said Mr. Aston to Delme, “was I so silly as to allow you to complete this bargain, you would hang yourself afterwards with the ribband of your first sword knot.”

“Go tell the gentleman that you are a simple whining lover, who do not deserve the regard of a lovely girl, and, therefore not fit to serve his Majesty, where

where courage is, as it ever ought to be, the road to promotion."

Delme stood wrapped in wonder at Mr. Aston's conversation, who, after a little time spent in reprobating the timidity of his friend, told him that Elizabeth had at length discovered that he possessed a corner of the heart of Miss Dundorne; and if so, to obtain her fair hand might not be so difficult as he imagined.

From the lowest depth of despair, this trifling circumstance had the power to raise him to the highest pinnacle of hope. The slightest circumstance in the eyes of a lover are magnified into importance.

Delme now considered Miss Aston as his guardian-angel. He fancied that these friends might have spoken more on the the subject than Elizabeth would relate to him. The death of Lady Auriol he thought a lucky circumstance, as, before this accident took place, Emily was so completely guarded by herself and

and niece, that it was impossible to approach her.

He now longed for the moment when Emily should be at liberty to renew her visits in South Audley Street, as he would then be free from the watchful Miss Auriol, who, Elizabeth informed him intended setting off for Berkshire as soon as Sarah Moncrief should arrive. This young lady Delme knew was the counterpart of his adored Emily, and that she would rejoice in giving her assistance to whatever was likely to promote the happiness of her adopted sister.

Thus passed on the first fortnight after the decease of Lady Auriol. Her son was intoxicated with his newly-acquired liberty. He had no mother to lecture him for late hours, or any impropriety of conduct of which he might be guilty. He scarcely spent an hour each day in Grosvenor Square. The house of Mr. Ellis was much more attractive, where
his

his adored Maria constantly met him with a smile, while all the rest of the family were employed in devising how and in what way it would be in their power to ensnare him to destruction. Ellis was most anxious to see his daughter rank amongst the nobility; and Lady Auriol's death made it much easier than ever for his Lordship to perform his former contract. Their old friend and auxiliary Careless, was called in, in order to assist at a council of war; when it was determined to undermine the garrison rather than take it by storm. Careless knew (and had profited by his knowledge) the foibles of his Lordship, who always was the slave of his own opinion and passions; and as these were both directly favourable to their plans, it must be the business of Ellis and his wife to watch that tide in the affairs of men, which is described by the poet when taken at the ebb, to lead on to fortune. He added that his cordial

dial assistance should not be wanting to place the coronet on the brow of his favourite Maria. This he said, laughing, would enable her to give him a *pigeon* sometimes. Ellis agreed to this last remark, though he determined that all the pigeons should come to his own nest. He now advanced cash to his Lordship with an unsparing hand, knowing, as he elegantly expressed it, that if he gave the young dog rope enough, he would hang himself. He never considered the compliment this idea conveyed to his daughter's charms.

Lord Auriol was now considered by the gay and the giddy as the most delightful dashing fellow about town. Many who condescended to think, wondered how he contrived to carry on so expensive a style of living. However, all dined with him, and all gamed with him, though all *laughed at him*.

He found many embarrassing circumstances

cumstances in his career of pleasure, but none of sufficient weight to arrest him in the pursuit.

Emily, with the consent of Lord Dundee, removed to the house of Mrs. Hornby, the relation as above observed, of her deceased and valuable friend, Lady Auriol: on the second day after her removal from Grosvenor Square, she was joined by her beloved Sarah Moncrief.

To express the sincere and heart-felt delight that filled the bosoms of Emily and Sarah at their meeting, is not possible. It cannot be described.

As soon as the first compliments were over, they retired to Emily's apartments; for Mrs. Hornby, when she consented to receive Miss Dundorne, had done it in the handsomest manner. She directly gave up a suite of apartments, which were appropriated solely to the use of Emily. Mrs. Hornby made every one happy their own way, she

she was always the promoter of innocent amusements ; and, though no longer young herself, was the life of all assemblies. Sarah soon observed that the change of life Emily had experienced, had not added to her looks ; this she attributed to keeping late hours, and the air of London : as at their first meeting she did not observe any diminution in her gaiety of manners. She had so much to say, so many questions to ask, that the dinner-bell summoned them before they had thought of dressing : they hastened to dress, as in the evening company was expected, among whom was Miss Aston ; who, knowing that Sarah was expected, had invited herself, Mrs. Hornby being an old friend of their family.

Emily, for this day, forgot Lady Auriol, and the dreaded engagement, extorted from her in a moment of weakness and irresolution. Her dear and respected Mr. Moncrief was well, and
her

her sister was now an inmate of the same house with herself. Portland Place she greatly preferred to Grosvenor Square; it conveyed to her idea the scenes she had witnessed at Easham, whenever she looked towards the country. Besides, the air was more keen, and the mistress of the mansion was in possession of more easy manners, at the same time that she was equally polite with Lady Auriol.

CHAPTER XXIV.

IN the evening there was a very large party at Mrs. Hornby's, where particular attention was paid to Emily and Miss Moncrief, whom the former introduced to her friends, as her sister.

Miss Aston, with her father and Mr. Delme, were announced, and instantly congratulated the friends on their meeting. Augustus was greatly embarrassed at this meeting, much more than at any former one with Miss Dundorne. She herself was covered with blushes when he enquired after her health; at
the

the same time that he assured her the inquiry seemed a very unnecessary one, as she never looked better than at the present moment. Sarah Moncrief told him that she perceived that he had imbibed the insincerity of a town-bred gentleman; for he could not say that Miss Dundorne looked better than when first he saw her at Park Place. This remark added considerably to the confusion of Delme, who now recollected in what a state he had first presented himself to these ladies. Emily also reflected, that at this time she was free and happy. The conversation between the friends was interrupted by the arrival of more company; and in half an hour the rooms were quite filled.

On Lord Dundee's appearance, Emily presented Miss Moncrief, of whom his Lordship took a more than common notice, as it was observed that the end of each circuitous ramble ended behind the

the chair of Sarah. Lady Dayrell, with Mrs. and Miss Wilson, joined the gay throng.

"Ah! *Ma Chere* Emily, you look most divinely, which I am happy to see," said her Ladyship, "for I have brought you a new admirer. Such a one! but he shall speak for himself." She waved her fan, and a tall, thin, raw-boned figure advanced, profoundly bowing at each step.

"Sir Walter Rickets, Miss Dundorne," said Lady Die. Emily courtesied. "Isn't he an Adonis?" Whispered Miss Wilson, "but vastly rich."

"Very crouded Miss," said Sir Walter.

"Yes," replied Emily, "very much so."

"Do you like these parties, Miss?" asked the Knight; "for my part, I wonder what so many can find to amuse them. A little snug party is preferable; don't you think so?"

"Why,

"Why, I can't say," replied Emily, "but I like to see a vast many people assembled together: it makes so gay and lively an appearance."

"Perhaps so," said Sir Walter: "you are a great fortune, and so all the sharpers of fashion pay their court to you; but you must not trust them without inquiring into their funds."

Emily smiled at the earnest manner in which he delivered this advice, which she could not but think extremely odd in a perfect stranger.

Sir Walter took a chair, which he drew near Emily's, saying, "come, now, I hope that we shall soon be better acquainted: every thing has a beginning. Do you know that I have had no peace or rest since I first saw you at the Opera? I go there every Opera night. I have a seat in Lady Dayrell's box, though I always find it filled; but it is fashionable as they say, and so as to the expence, I don't mind that

that now.—I was taken ill last year, and fined for slieriff; that was very hard, wasn't it Miss?"

Emily said that really she was unacquainted with the case, and could not give an opinion.

"That's a vastly prudent, sensible reply," said Sir Walter. "What a beautiful Lady Mayores you would make! only think of opening the ball in the Egyptian Hall. Shou'dn't you like it? Perhaps a Prince or an Ambassador for your partner!"

Emily replied that she did not doubt but the situation he described was a very desirable one.

"Do you really speak as you think? If you do, I think, I can promise that you shall attain it."

Emily laughed excessively, which Miss Wilson observing, begged to have her share of the mirth.

Sir Walter desired that she would not interrupt them, as Miss Dundorne

was

was the most agreeable young Lady he had met with lately. He told Emily that probably he should not have remained a bachelor so long, had he known her some years sooner. "But all in good time; I can stand the test. Sir Walter Ricketts' name upon 'Change bears some weight. The Minister has recourse to me on all pressing occasions. He has a pretty sharp look out where money is to be had, Miss."

"You are very useful, Sir," replied Emily.

"Useful! Miss; why yes, you may say that. Did you ever see my house on Epping Forest?"

"No, I never was there, that I remember," answered she.

"Never on Epping Forest! never saw Lord Tylney's House! you amaze me, Miss."

Lady Dayrell now advanced to join in the fun at the expence of Sir Walter.

"Well, my dear little Watty," said

D

her

her Ladyship, "how are you amusing Miss Dundorne? I assure you you are envied by all the young men."

"Why I have been talking to Miss about my Villa at the Forest, and do you know she never heard of it, nor of Lord Tylney's neither! that is surprising," replied she. "But, however, this may be very easily got over: for if you will give Mrs. Hornby and her family an invitation, we will make a party, and take bachelor's fare."

"Delightful! most charming!" said Sir Walter; "I will about it instantly:" and he got up to find Mrs. Hornby.

Emily was greatly relieved, and as soon as he was at a proper distance, she inquired of Lady Dayrell, who that odd mortal was.

Why, he is a very rich banker, he has an immense over-grown fortune, which he dares not spend himself, nor dares he trust any female to do so for him. He has been searching the town
these

these dozen years for a prudent woman who has a large fortune, and at length he fancies she is found.

For Heaven's sake humour the joke, for I assure you he is in earnest. You have observed, no doubt, that he is a little vulgar; if he was well-bred with all that formality, he would be unsupportable. But as he is, he serves to borrow money from, and laugh at, at the same time.

"But are you not in danger of giving him offence?" asked Emily.

"Oh never! he knows we laugh at him; but then he laughs at us in our turn. Our poverty at this end of the town, serves him for a standing joke. He says that almost every third man he gives his hand to, is in his debt."

Lord Auriol now made his appearance, accompanied by Captain Careless; they were both in a state of inebriety, quite improper for an exhibition before so large an assembly.

His Lordship now approached Emily

“with a rhapsody of nonsense, declaring that he had been quite miserable since she had left Grosvenor Square, and that he could not bear to enter the house now she was gone.

“That is strange,” replied she, “for I think that your Lordship was under the same impressions whilst I was a resident there.”

“I see,” returned he, “that you are determined to drive me to absolute despair by the severity of your remark; but angels know their power over us poor mortals.” Seeing Miss Moncrief, whom Emily introduced, he appeared at first under some little embarrassment: however this was soon got over. His Lordship then inquired after the Doctor, saying, “I hope, Miss Moncrief, that both he and you have forgiven me for the accident that I was unintentionally the occasion of: but, upon my soul, it was impossible to live so melancholy a life without a frolic or two.”

“But,”

"But," replied Emily with some severity, "when your Lordship is again in a frolicsome mood, it is to be hoped that you will not pursue it so far as to endanger the lives of your fellow-creature."

"Sentimental by heavens!" exclaimed Lord Auriol, casting a look at Captain Careless.

"Does your Lordship think," returned she, "that you would be the worse of a little sentiment?"

"Certainly not, if you approve of it," replied he.

Careless looked at his watch, which reminded his friend of an engagement; his attendance on which obliged him, he said to tear himself away, though he left his better part at Mr. Hornby's. He then sauntered through the crowd to the astonishment of every one, that he should present himself to her friends in such a state, so soon after his mother's funeral.

Delme had observed his Lordship from his first entrance, when he heard him say to Careless, "Come, now give me your opinion of this girl. I can't say that she is at all to my taste. I wish you would take her."

Careless replied, "with all my heart, provided she has both her eyes and has not a hump back."

They then moved towards Emily, when the conversation took place before related.

Delme's spirit was in arms to find the mistress of his most ardent affections, tossed like a shuttle-cock between two such worthless beings. Thus, said he to himself, are women of feeling sacrificed to the profligate and worthless, in order to aggrandize that very name, that their actions render despicable. He heartily wished that he had been any relation of Emily's, that he might have called the insolence of Lord Auriol to account. And considering himself

so much interested he could not bear the meanness of exposing his conduct to her, who ought to shew resentment.

Sarah Moncrief had conceived a dislike to his Lordship for his conduct whilst under the roof of her father, that nothing could obliterate.

On the other hand, she had felt an interest in Delme from their first meeting, to which his disinterested conduct towards Emily, when he could not know the change in her situation had considerably added.

Emily was in tolerable spirits this evening. The presence of her sister and the marked attention paid her by Lord Dundee, were both circumstances of pleasure. Not that she supposed that this attention sprang from any other motive than the respect that he had conceived for the character of her father.

Miss Aston congratulated Sarah on having on her first appearance, attracted the notice of a peer. Miss

D 4.

Moncrief

Moncrief assured her that her ambition did not aim so high, nor had she vanity sufficient to think any attractions, of which she might be in possession, could balance the want of high birth and fortune, in the mind of so prudent a man as his Lordship was allowed to be.

This conversation was interrupted by Sir Walter Rickets, who declared himself highly distinguished this evening by Mrs. Hornby's having consented to pay him a visit at his villa on Epping Forest, some day in the course of the next week.

"And now, Miss, shall I hope for the honour of a visit from you? There is no impropriety in it, I can assure you, as sister presides. She is a little old-fashioned, but don't mind her, I never do. She wants a new coach, but I will not consent. I have offered to let the old one be brushed up and painted a little, but this won't do, she says I shall
never

never cut a figure if I don't shew a little spirit. But I answer, if I had shewn spirit, as she calls it, I had never been in the way I am in now."

"I might have been in parliament a dozen years ago, but then I must have paid for it. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

"I hear that you are intending to throw away your fortune upon that young man who made so ridiculous a figure here just now; but if you do, remember Walter Rickets tells you, that you will not be worth one acre of your own land in half a dozen years. He frequents gaming-houses. Never trust a gamester: he is not master of himself."

Though Emily felt the full force of all he said, yet she was displeased at the liberty now taken both with the character of Lord Auriol, and also with herself.

She assured Sir Walter, that she had not determined on giving her fortune

to any one at present; and that when she did, she was not without friends to consult.

"Oh! I don't doubt that, Miss," replied he. "But I can assure you, nobody wishes more than myself, to see you happy, though I am just become acquainted. And I know those who could make more ample settlements on you; aye, and treat you better than you, younker of a Lord. But then a title is a great bait."

Delme just came up as the last sentence was uttered. "I agree with Sir Walter," (to whom he had before been introduced), said he, "a title has many charms, though the possessor of it is not endowed with one good quality."

"What a satire you have pronounced on our sex, Mr. Delme," answered Emily, blushing, at the same time. "How do you know that women prefer these to more solid advantages?"

"Why

"Why truly," said he, "I am not a man of general knowledge on these points: but I think, I have observed this in one instance, and that too where I least expected it; because the lady is not deficient either in sense or beauty."

"I thought," replied Emily, "that you had been in possession of more liberality of thinking, than to condemn the whole sex for one instance."

"And, Mr. Delme," said Miss Moncrief, "you may not be certain even in this one instance, that vanity was the sole motive."

He bowed, and said, "that he could not maintain the combat with two antagonists; but would own himself defeated."

Sarah Moncrief too well knew to whom he alluded, and being assured that Emily's heart did not give a preference to Lord Auriol, she could not bear that he should think so meanly of her.

Mrs. Hornby engaged with Emily and Sarah to make a party at *vingt une*; and

thus, she was relieved for the remainder of the evening from the torrent of unmeaning nonsense that was incessantly poured into her ears. Whenever she met Delme, she could not help contrasting his with Lord Auriol's manners; and the result was ever favourable to Augustus.

When the two friends retired, after the company was gone, they entered fully into the merits of the visitors, as Emily wished to make Sarah acquainted with the different characters of those persons to whom she had that evening been introduced. In going over the group she avoided any mention of either Lord Auriol or Delme.

Sarah, noticing this omission, said, "why are you silent as to two of the company? I see, that you have forgotten the time when we used to have no secrets, as was the case when at Eastham, and that you have taken up the reserve of a town lady."

Emily

Emily could not bear this reproach from one she loved so much, without bursting into tears, and confessing that it was not from any change in her sentiments, but because her situation was truly distressing, as she could not bring her duty and inclinations to the same point.

Emily then related to Miss Moncrief the solemn promise she had been drawn in to make to Lady Auriol; the fulfilment of which would render her wretched for life. "How then, dearest Sarah," continued she, "can I speak what I think of Lord Auriol, with whom I am perhaps destined to spend my days?"

"As to Mr. Delme, I fear, that I entertain too favourable an opinion of him for my future happiness; whilst on the other hand, he looks upon me as one who would sacrifice all feelings to that of vanity; for I cannot pretend ignorance that he meant me in his allusions of this evening. I have never
given

given him cause to think thus meanly of me ; and therefore I am the more hurt at this remark."

Miss Moncrief knew he had cause to think that she preferred Lord Auriol to himself ; though Emily was not as yet acquainted with her reason for thinking so. Sarah, who knew and admired the disinterested offer Delme had made to her father, now that she was assured that Miss Dundorne gave him the preference, could not help, in the fulness of her heart, disclosing to Emily the whole circumstance.

This disclosure served to complete the misery of Miss Dundorne. She wept on the bosom of her sister, and exclaimed, " must I ever be the victim of false delicacy ? Had your father but communicated to me the sentiments of Mr. Delme, never had my lips sealed a promise that I am now constrained, both by duty and religion, to hold as sacred."

Emily.

Emily now understood many things said by Miss Aston, for which she was then at a loss to account. She considered the extreme delicacy of Delme in not making any direct overtures to her when he was informed that she was destined to give her hand to Lord Auriol, as the highest point of propriety; and, whilst she admired the mind that dictated such a line of conduct, was led to lament her wayward fate.

As hope never wholly deserts us, she was sometimes led to think, that perhaps Lord Auriol, now that his mother was no more, might entertain other views for himself. She had promised to give her hand should he solicit it: this he might never do; yet, until this should be determined, it would be wrong in her to receive the addresses of another.

CHAPTER XXV.

LORD Dundee had let some time elapse after the death of his sister, before he spoke to his nephew on the numberless irregularities that daily met his ear: but, as these were accumulating, and he saw nothing but absolute ruin approaching fast to overwhelm him, he at length determined to insist on his fulfilling the engagement he had entered into with his mother on her death-bed.

He accordingly, after breakfast the next morning, went to Grosvenor Square: on enquiring for his Lordship, he

he was told by the porter, that he was in the library ; but that he thought his Lordship had better go to the drawing-room, for the company Lord Auriol was engaged with, were unknown to him.

“How do you know that, Peter?” replied Lord Dundee. “What are they?”

“Why, a’nt please your Lordship, they are women—not ladies.”

“Oh! I understand you,” said Lord Dundee, smiling at the remarks of Peter. “Well, then, go and tell Auriol I am waiting to see him, and I’ll step in here,” opening a parlour door. Here he found a set of men, with whose business he was equally unacquainted: a short man now walked up to his Lordship, making a hundred bows and apologies for his intrusion; but money being so scarce, and never having had the pleasure to serve his Lordship but this once——

Lord

Lord Dundee saw the fellow mistook him for his nephew. A thought struck him, that he would not undeceive him. So taking the account, he ran his eye over it and found that all the articles were trinkets and baubles for women, as Peter called them: the amount of the bill was three hundred and forty pounds.

"Heaven defend me!" exclaimed he. "Do you ever expect to be paid, my friend?"

"Why, yes certainly, I do: your Lordship's man told me my money was safe as the Bank, for that your Lordship was going to marry a great heiress."

"My Lordship would deserve to be hanged," replied Lord Dundee, "if I was the person you suppose me to be;" instead of marrying any deserving woman—Here take your bill and present it to the profligate who contracted the debt.

Here

Here Johnson, Lord Auriol's valet, made his appearance. The tradesman stood aghast, not knowing what he had done: for he found there was some mistake. Johnson informed his Lordship that his master would wait on him directly; and calling the people who were waiting, with a nod of his head, they were going out; but Lord Dundee was so irritated at his nephew, that he said, "My good people, if you come for money, which I doubt not but you do, you had better sit still. I will go myself to my nephew." Here Johnson ran out of the room to prevent his going to the library, where Mrs. and Miss Ellis were at breakfast; not feeling the least impropriety in this step. They wished to get into this house, how and on any terms that they could. Lord Dundee indignantly passed this door, saying to Johnson, "tell Auriol that I am in haste."

When

When Lord Auriol appeared, his uncle said, he believed that he had interrupted him ; but, that he could not see and hear also of the speedy ruin in which he was daily involving himself, without some remonstrance. He then recapitulated the state that his fortune was now in, and convinced his nephew that he was actually on the brink of sinking, unless he adopted a different line of conduct: not that what his Lordship knew as to the state of affairs, was half so bad as Lord Auriol himself knew it to be.

Lord Dundee reminded him of his mother's last request, and recommended a little more attention to Miss Dundorne, who was assailed by numerous suitors; and, it was not to be supposed, but she would observe the indifference with which he treated her, and perhaps turn her attention to another object. And his Lordship assured his nephew, until he acted with propriety by adopting

ing his advice, that he should not come forward in extrication of any difficulties that might occur. Then wishing him a good day, he left him to ruminate on the past, and to determine for the future.

Mrs. and Miss Ellis had stolen away as soon as possible after they heard Lord Dundee's name announced: they had left their carriage in the next street, not wishing to be recognized by the parade of their coach at his Lordship's door, until this could be effected with safety; well knowing, that impertinent relations will sometimes interfere when young men are so imprudent as to prefer the gratification of their passions to their reputation and their interests.

Johnson now crept into the room finding the coast clear, to inform his master of the numerous levee of impatient tradesmen, who were now rather clamorous on the speech of Lord Dundee, whom they considered to be well informed

informed as to the state of Lord Auriol's affairs.

Johnson had now no longer the power of telling his tale with effect, nor could he now, as he frequently boasted, put himself upon an equality in point of eloquence, in a certain way, with a member of parliament; who, it is said, possesses the power of dismissing a creditor without his money as well satisfied, as those who carry away the hard cash.

To see his Lordship before they left the house was the determination of the whole party, which was now accumulated to a pretty considerable number.

Johnson came to announce this resolution. Lord Auriol had the happiest facility at contracting debts, at the same time that he possessed neither power nor inclination to discharge them.

His Lordship called them a damned insolent set of rascals, and ordered Johnson to inform them, that if they did

did not instantly quit his house, he would never deal with them again.

"I don't think that will satisfy them now," replied the valet, "I have told them this very often, and they say if the bill is discharged, you are very welcome to carry your custom away."

Very happily at this instant arrived Captain Careless and Mr. Ellis. "What's the matter, Auriol?" said the former gentleman, (for by Johnson's significant shrug as they entered, he knew something unpleasant had occurred) "Matter!" replied his Lordship, "why, Dundee has been here, he wants to drive me into a marriage with that dangle of a girl, Miss Dundorne." Next he introduced himself to a set of fellows who are waiting for cash that I have not got. In short, I am teized to death: do go, Careless, and send these troublesome wretches out of the house.

"Oh! that will I, instantly," replied the Captain. "If they won't go quietly,
a parcel

a parcel of rascals, I'll call up the servants and thrust them into the street."

Off he ran.

Mr. Ellis told his Lordship that he was no longer to be trifled with, and that therefore he had brought Careless with him to know what was his determination as to his daughter. If they were, as his Lordship always declared, and indeed had given under his hand—(Mr. Ellis now thought it would not be improper to remind him of this circumstance, lest it should have slipped his memory) honourable; why, Careless, need not proceed to the extremities he had talked of, for he would discharge the demand, or at least satisfy the creditors.

"Will you, my dear fellow,"—his Lordship rang his bell violently. Tell Careless not to proceed to any violence, Mr. Ellis will come to him.

Lord Auriol now assured Ellis, that he intended to make his daughter Lady
Auriol

Auriol, and would give him any satisfaction he required.

This being the point to which Ellis wanted to bring him, he declared himself so far satisfied, that he would in the mean time rid his house of duns. He went out and almost instantly returned, saying, "Yes, yes, I believe my name will go a good way; the fellows are gone."

Careless exclaimed, "that there was nothing so impertinently troublesome as an English tradesman.—They are such damned peremptory rascals when they want money. Nothing you can say will affront them; I have tried it a thousand times. To any thing you say, they coolly present the bill, 'Pay me,' is all the answer one can get."

"I believe" replied Ellis, "Captain, you don't often do as they request."

"Why no," answered Careless: "if I did, it would only be encouraging the scoundrels."

This caused a hearty laugh at the expence of both honour and honesty.

Ellis now proceeded to business, which he found the necessity of bringing to a speedy conclusion, as Lord Dundee was pressing his nephew to marry Miss Dundorne, about whom it had been for some time the chief occupation of both Careless and himself to make inquiries. They had found out that there was actually a suit at law on the point of being commenced against Emily, by Mr. Leland, whose solicitor was also employed by Ellis, and had given him this welcome piece of intelligence; though, at the same time that Mr. Rose informed him of this, he said, that there was no doubt, but in the end, Emily would be found to be the lawful heiress. This part of the information was not to his purpose; therefore he sunk it entirely.

His Lordship was delighted with this information, for he had ever entertained
the

the utmost repugnance to marry Emily, whom he considered as one who would exact a proper attention from him, and, though not bred in high life, had been educated in the strictest principles. His youth had been spent with a too indulgent mother, who always thought that she could resume the reins of government at pleasure, and that it was time enough to check the juvenile sports of her son, until it was out of her power to restrain his indiscretions. He had made the servants his friends and *confidantes*, who were so well pleased with possessing the ear of his Lordship, from which they each promised to themselves some future good, that his faults were always screened from Lady Auriol's knowledge; or if known to her, were always palliated.

Those gentlemen, too, who were retained in the family (for these were often changed) as tutors to Lord Auriol, soon

perceiving the bent of his disposition, and not finding it possible to please both parties, rather chose to retain their situations as long as possible by pleasing his Lordship. At length Lady Auriol saw her error when it was too late: yet her unbounded confidence in Mr. Moncrief, led her to hope that he might effect what she found impossible. The result of this hope was disappointment. Thus, from an imprudent lenity, those propensities and vices, which might have been checked in the beginning, were permitted to grow up into habits that were now leading Lord Auriol hastily to his own destruction.

Lord Auriol eagerly caught at this information, and swore that he was heartily glad of it, as this would effectually free him from an extorted engagement; and he would then be at liberty to shew his charming Maria how much he was attached to her.

“ You

"You can shew this beyond a doubt, my Lord, this evening if you like," said Ellis."

"How is that possible? I am not yet of age," replied his Lordship, "and therefore cannot marry."

"Then," said Ellis, "you are not a man of honour, which I took you for."

His Lordship fired at this expression. Careless frowned at Ellis, who added, "I mean that if you do not perform your promise to Maria, you cannot be a man of honour."

Lord Auriol could not afford to stand for trifles, so he accepted this explanation.

It was not the plan of either Ellis or Careless to part with his Lordship; they therefore insisted on his going with them to Ellis's house, where a large party were to dine; amongst which were some very experienced lawyers, who would give their opinion as to what was proper to be adopted

with regard to settlements, which Ellis could by no means afford to wave, disinterestedly as he would wish to have it supposed he had acted.

Careless promised to stay whilst Lord Auriol dressed, as Ellis had occasion to go home. He wanted to prepare his wife and daughter for a project he had formed, and which he foresaw would be frustrated, if he did not take the tide at the ebb, as Careless had advised.

A consultation was now held between his Lordship and his friend, how he should be off as to Emily: for to marry he had no manner of inclination. Careless advised him to be off by all means; particularly as there was no immediate prospect of extrication from debt. If there had, he, as a friend, would advise him to take the girl; as certainly he preferred his Lordship's interest to that of the Ellis's: though this was by no means the truth, because his own particular interest was in the latter scale.

Lord

Lord Auriol was so sensible of the sincere friendship of Careless, that he promised to take no step without consulting him. At the same time he assured him the divine Maria should certainly be Lady Auriol before the end of the week. He now went to dress whilst Careless read a newspaper, and examined the contents of a few letters that were lying carelessly about the room.

During Lord Auriol's absence, a letter was brought in; and the wafer being wet, the Captain took permission to examine it, and found by its contents, as it came from Lord Dundee, that matters must be brought to a speedy conclusion, or the Ellis's would lose their dupe. Of the contents of this letter, he determined to inform his friends in Covent Garden; for which they both set out as soon as Lord Auriol was dressed.

CHAPTER XXVI.

MISS Dundorne found herself very happily situated with Mrs. Hornby; but her mind continued in the most uneasy state, as she dreaded each day an explanation with Lord Auriol.

Lord Dundee, one morning, requested her to spare him half an hour to talk upon business of much importance. Emily trembled excessively at this prelude, but felt herself somewhat relieved at what would have given most young women infinite pain; for she considered the want of fortune not to be put in competition

competition with the loss of peace of mind.

Lord Dundee informed her of the circumstance of the disputed title, and the law-suit actually about to be commenced at the suit of Mr. Leland. At the same time, that he said, she need be under no apprehension for the issue. He advised her to turn her mind to that point, which it was his sister's earnest wish should take place. Her union, he said, with his nephew, who was most impatient for its completion, would give him a natural right to interfere and add additional strength to her claim.

Emily was alarmed at this proposition; for, though she contemplated at a distance her union with Lord Auriol as unavoidable, yet any approach towards what she so much dreaded, filled her with apprehensions she could not overcome.

She said, that Lord Dundee certainly knew better than herself the justice of

her claim. If this was not legal, no alliance could intitle her to possess the estates of Dundorne.

His Lordship asked her, with somewhat more of severity than was usual to him, whether he was to infer from this answer that she meant to reject the addresses of Lord Auriol.

She answered, that certainly she had been led into a promise to Lady Auriol that she would, (according to the express desire of those parents she had never the happiness to know, and also that of her Ladyship's wishes in addition to this) give her hand to his Lordship, should he ever request her to do so. His Lordship's total silence and indifference on the subject, convinced her that his wishes did not by any means accord with his mother's; therefore, she must beg leave to be silent to the question asked. Though at the same time, she assured his Lordship that she entertained a strict sense
of

of obligations entered into, and that she never meant to violate her word given.

Lord Dundee assured her, that he was perfectly satisfied, and said, that she had acted with perfect propriety. He assured her that if his nephew had not been as attentive a lover as he ought to have been, it was not that he was deficient in regard, but that he was withheld by timidity from expressing those sentiments which he entertained.

His Lordship now quitted a subject most disagreeable to Emily, and entered upon one most pleasing to her. This was an enquiry after Doctor Moncrief, whose situation he was particularly anxious about. He informed her that his sister had left the Doctor a considerable legacy; and, after much hesitation, he confessed to Miss Dundorne that the modesty and native charms of Miss Moncrief had made such an impression on him, that with her permission, he

would hope to carry her back with him to Scotland, as Lady Dundee, and that he would write, (as soon as Emily assured him that this proposal was not totally disagreeable to Miss Moncrief) to her father on the subject.

Emily now forgave his Lordship all the former pain he had given her in the contemplation of the pleasing prospect held out of the aggrandizement of her beloved Sarah Moncrief, and the happiness this intelligence would communicate to the good Doctor, her father. She assured his Lordship of her warm interest. He now left her with acknowledgements for the large portion of her time, which he had taken up, saying, "Miss Dundorne, I do not despair but we shall all be of one family, notwithstanding the awkwardness of Auriol, but this is said often to be found in conjunction with the most ardent affection."

The

The moment he was gone, she flew to Miss Moncrief's dressing-room, crying out, "Sarah, it is in your power to render me happy, in spite of intervening unpleasantries."

"And," replied she, "you know that I will do this Emily, if in my power, most readily. But what can this be that has raised your spirits so much?"

"Will you be Lady Dundee?" said Emily, "it is true that you may be so; if so it pleases you."

Sarah laughed at her, and replied, "and is this all that you mean? What a silly girl you are to make me believe that it was in my power to serve you, and then laugh at my disappointment."

Emily then assured her that most seriously his Lordship had proposed to marry her, provided that she did not forbid the banns. Sarah received this news with much astonishment. She said, that she must consult her father, before she could say any thing to his Lordship's

ship's proposal, but that she could hardly, though assured by Emily of its being meant seriously, believe it to be so.

They now sat down and considered the subject, for they had no reserves. Emily insisted on the advantages of her sister's accepting the offer. "Though, he is not quite so young a lover," said she, "as I could have wished, yet he may make up this deficiency in attentions. His Lordship, I dare say, is not more than forty, and you shall have him. I'll tell him that you are impressed with a proper sense of his goodness in giving you a decided preference to the many ladies who would be proud of his alliance, and that he may write to Eastham as soon as he pleases."

Sarah smiled at her earnestness of manner. She said, that there was time enough, that Emily needed not to be so precipitate, that she would think a little on the subject; though, she owned
that

that she was most grateful to his Lordship for the honour intended her.

Lady Dayrell was announced. She said, that she was come purposely for Emily and Mrs. Hornby to fix the day for a visit to Sir Walter's Villa; for, that until this was absolutely put beyond a doubt, she should have no peace, and his poor servant would die of fatigue in pacing it between Lombard Street and Portman Square. "That you are to be the Lady Mayoress is a decided point."—"Oh!" said she, "*entre nous*, is it settled when you and that creature Auriol are to be united? As I hear that the settlements are preparing, and jewels are ordered. He is a fine dashing fellow, he will shew you off to advantage."

"Indeed," said Emily, "I don't think that he ever will shew me off; and as to settlements, it is the first word I have heard on the subject."

"Oh!"

"Oh! you fly creature," cried Miss Wilton; "why, I saw a delightful pair of ear-rings that were made for Lord Auriol, and intended as a present to you; and I don't doubt if I was to search your cabinet, but I should find them before I left the house. I shall watch for them, they will come out some day to your confusion."

Lady Dayrell said, that Helen insisted on being one of the bride's maids, would take no denial, and that she came to extort a promise.

Miss Dundorne sighed, as she well remembered that an extorted promise was likely to be to her a most serious misery. She answered, that it would be time enough to settle that point, when it was determined whom she should marry.

"I am told," said Lady Dayrell, "that Leland is determined to force you to have him, or if you will not, he swears that
that

that you shall not possess the Dundorne estates in quietness."

The ladies insisted on Emily and Miss Moncrief going with them to see some of the divinest caps imaginable, and some fine dresses that Dawson was making for the Countess of Thingumbob.

Emily was in such high spirits at the proposals of Lord Dundee, that she could not refuse leaving her compliments to Mrs. Hornby; they all hastened to Mrs. Dawson's to see the divine caps; and, after having tumbled over all the finery there, and made a few purchases, they went to call on Lady Arabella Moore, in St. James's Square, an aunt of Sir John Dayrell's. Lady Arabella was of that description of females, who are called old maids. Indeed, this lady maintained the character in its most primitive state. At their entrance she was found surrounded by a numerous family of tabby cats, and lap-dogs of all descriptions, who were actually at dinner
with

with a cloth laid, with each his or her separate plate, whilst Lady Arabella sat as carver. The cats seemed extremely well educated, for no one infringed upon the plate of another. Her Ladyship apologized on receiving Miss Dundorne (who was introduced by Lady Dayrell), in the room where her little family were at dinner. Lady Die, she said, was used to them, and so she was always admitted. "O yes," said Lady Die, laughing, "my cousins admit me without ceremony, as I never approach near their claws." Miss Wilton inquired after the health of Mrs. Draper and Yarrico, and was answered by the maid, who attended the table, that Mrs. Draper was better; but that Yarrico was so ill, she thought she would not get the better.

Emily asked Lady Die what was the matter with these ladies.

"Ladies!" exclaimed she, "why they belong to my aunt's family, and are favourite tabbies."

After

After witnessing the ceremony of a dinner of this sort, which was to Emily and Miss Moncrief a much greater treat than all Mrs. Dawson's finery, they took their leave.

Lady Dayrell assured them that these cats occupied almost all the time of Lady Arrabella, and that she spent immense sums in this way: that she had actually a nursery up stairs, and each dog and cat had their separate bed, and that there was a footman kept to walk out with the dogs, two or three at a time. She added, that there was no doubt, when her aunt made her exit, but those of her *family* who survived, of the canine race, would have annuities for the remainder of their days; and that Sir John, who was her heir, would be charged either to admit them into his house, or provide one for them.

They made a number of calls, and found as the summer was now fast advancing, every one was preparing to quit

quit London. Lady Dayrell gave both Emily and Miss Moncrief an invitation to spend some time at Milton Castle. This they politely declined for the present. Emily said that she designed to pass some time at Easham with Mr. Moncrief.

"Are you going to bury yourself there? well, you will be soon followed and hunted out of your retirement," said Lady Die.

When they arrived at home, they found amongst many others, the cards of Miss Aston, Mr. Delme, and Lord Dundee. He left a request that Miss Dundorne would appoint an early hour the next morning, to see him on important business.

What could this be she was at a loss to conjecture. However, she instantly wrote and appointed ten o'clock.

With much anxiety did Emily wait the arrival of her guardian.

He came, and after being seated, told her

her that affairs had taken a much more serious turn than he had at first apprehended; for that those testimonies which he had already produced, and these were all of which he was in possession, were not admitted to be weighty enough to decide the suite at law in her favour; that more substantial proof was wanting, in failure of which, Leland, he was afraid, would make good his claim.

Emily was not affected at this news, as it might have been supposed that she would. She said, that it was strange that no written declaration had been left by her parents, to ascertain that she was their child and heir; but owned that she had never heard of any such thing.

"Where is the nurse who brought you from Scotland?" said Lord Dundee.

"Dead some months ago," replied Emily. "But I will go and ask Miss Moncrief, if she left any papers that may be of use."

She

She soon returned, saying, that Dr. Moncrief, had all the papers left by Rachel, but that Sarah did not think that there were any of importance relative to her, or she would have heard her father mention it.

"I am much alarmed," said Lord Dundee, "on hearing this, for I have carefully searched all the papers of Lady Auriol for some document, such as we are now greatly in want of, but no such thing is to be found: and yet, I cannot help thinking that some such paper was in her possession."

To this, Miss Dundorne could make no reply.

His Lordship said, that he would take a journey down to Scotland, if it was possible, to stay the judgement of the Court, for the purpose of seeing if any of the old servants of her family were able to circumstantiate the present evidence produced. That there was no doubt,

doubt, but Lady Dundorne had a child, but whether she was actually the person, was to be proved. Both Lady Auriol, and the nurse who received her from Lady Dundorne, were dead. And as there was never any communication between the Dundorne family and Mr. Moncrief, but through Lady Auriol, Mr. Moncrief's evidence could only prove that he received Emily from Lady Auriol as Lord Dundorne's daughter, and also that he was paid by Lady Auriol."

Emily was extremely perplexed what she ought to do in this case. She told Lord Dundee, if he believed that she would loose the cause, it was best for her to submit to what was unavoidable. She then told his Lordship, that on many accounts it was her wish to spend this summer with Dr. Moncrief and his daughter at Eastham, if she had his permission. His Lordship now said, "What am I to infer, Miss Dundorne, from this request?"

request? Not that the affections of Miss Moncrief are already engaged, I hope."

Emily replied, that she had spoken to Sarah on the subject his Lordship had last mentioned when he was with her the day before; that Sarah was impressed with a proper sense of his Lordship's favourable opinion; and referred him to her father for any further explanation.

This answer raised his spirits to so high a pitch, that on taking leave he said that he would in the evening wait on Miss Moncrief, and then matters should be settled as to the journey to Easbam; to which place he would himself conduct them if he had time, from the pressure of her affairs; if not he would soon return thither; and he would leave no effort untried to conduct Emily to Scotland, with a proper title to the estates of Dundorne; at the same time that he
hoped

hoped he should also have permission to conduct Miss Moncrief thither as Lady Dundee." His Lordship took his leave.

After he was gone, and Emily was left alone, she shed a flood of tears, and heartily wished that she had been left in that obscurity from which Lady Auriol had taken her, only to encounter vexations and disappointments. She did not regret the loss of fortune so much as she would, had she happier prospects. The only thing now that she could dwell on with pleasure, was that Sarah would be enabled to do that for her father, which she herself had intended the moment she should be at age, and in possession of the means.

CHAPTER XXVI.

MRS. Hornby tried all in her power to keep up the spirits of Emily, assuring her that some paper had been in possession of Lady Auriol, that authenticated her birth beyond dispute. Nay, she was almost tempted in her own mind to accuse Lord Auriol of having secreted this paper; for every one saw that he had no inclination towards an union with Emily, as Mr. Hornby was well informed of his attachment to Maria Ellis. Though he considered this as a temporary matter, yet it was plain that

that she possessed any little affection that might be in his power to bestow from himself on others.

Emily told her friends of her intended visit to Easham, which they would neither of them hear of. Mr. Hornby said, that she should be at liberty to make as many excursions thither as she pleased, provided his house should still be their home. Mrs Hornby gave Sarah an invitation to spend the summer, or part of it, with them. These invitations were declined with proper acknowledgments.

A letter was now brought directed to Miss Emily Moncrief, this surprised her, and she instantly broke the seal and read as follows:

“ Madam,

“ IT was evidently under
“ the impression that you was the daughter
“ and heiress of the late Lord Dundorne, that my mother formed the

F 2

intention

“intention of our union. This being
“now disputed and disproved to my
“full conviction, I must beg to wave the
“honour intended me in favour of one
“for whom I have been informed you
“have a decided preference.

“Yours,

“AURIOL.”

“Impertinent,” said Emily, throwing down the letter.

“What is it,” asked Mrs. Hornby, “for I see my dear, that you are greatly agitated.”

Emily burst into tears, and presenting the letter to her, said, “Oh! you cannot conceive how happy I am in this release.”

After they had all read it, as no one was present but a family party, Mr. Hornby advised her to inform Lord Dundee, when he came in the evening, and then to assure him that she would never again receive the renewed addresses
of

of Lord Auriol, as he had thus acquitted her of all engagements.

“And now,” said Emily, “come what may, I am prepared to meet it: whether affluence or poverty. I am relieved from a weight that hung on my spirits by this unmanly declaration, couched in terms of the highest insult.”

Delme was announced. He seemed in extremely good spirits, which was seldom the case. Miss Moncrief congratulated him upon the gaiety of his appearance. He replied, that his having so seldom cause to rejoice must be imputed to his ill stars, not to his inclination. “Pray, may we be acquainted with the propitious star that shines at present, and alters the colour of your fate.”—“Why, I have two or three different causes of satisfaction at the present moment: one of these is, that I have just received a card of invitation.

from Sir Walter Rickets, to meet you at his villa to morrow."

"I am in wonder," replied Sarah, "that ever you have any cause to be unhappy, when so simple a circumstance can render you so elated."

Emily inquired after her friend, Elizabeth, who was confined at home with a slight cold, and desired him to let her know that it was determined that she should spend some time at Easham this summer.

Delme replied, that he was most happy to hear this, as he had just accepted an invitation of an old college companion in that neighbourhood to make his house in his way home."

"Come, come," said Mrs. Hornby, "I will not allow you to make parties and leave me out. Mr. Delme, I insist on your all passing a month with me previous to your following your own inclinations."

"That

"That I would, most certainly, Madam," replied he, "could you convince me that I should be permitted to follow my own inclinations afterwards."

"I will promise you my leave," said she, "because I have too good an opinion of your character to suppose that you can entertain any sentiment, that is not the result of prudence and good sense."

Delme bowed thanks, and inquired of Miss Moncrief when she had last heard from her father, and begged when she wrote, that she would not forget his compliments. He then told them that he had just come from Lady Dayrell's, who was quite full of news. She told him, that his antagonist, Sir Sampson Gillian, was totally ruined at a gaming table a few nights ago, that in consequence of this, he was gone, or going abroad, and that his estate would come to the hammer next week. "Her Ladyship is quite happy that his violent regard for you,

Miss Dundorne," said he, blushing whilst he spoke, "has prevented the total ruin of Miss Wilson."

"Well," said Emily, "I am glad also, since the ruin has not in consequence fallen on myself."

"Never, I hope," replied he, "will ruin fall on one so deserving." He inquired at what hour to-morrow they would be at Sir Walter's, and then took his leave.

Emily found her spirits greatly agitated by the conversation she had had with Lord Dundee, and also with the contents of his nephew's letter to herself, and as she knew that the evening visit was intended to Miss Moncrief, she determined to remain in her dressing-room after dinner, and employ herself in writing an account of the multiplied occurrences that had perplexed her, to Mr. Moncrief, and also acquaint him with the good fortune of Sarah. She therefore at dinner complained of
a slight

a slight head-ache, and retired to her room. She gave Lord Auriol's letter to Mrs. Hornby, desiring her to shew this to Lord Dundee; at the same time to assure him that the letter conveyed no other sentiment to her mind, than that of happiness, at being released from an engagement that she must otherwise ever have held to be sacred.

"Come," said Mr. Hornby, "Miss Dundorne, confess; do you not believe that this conduct of Lord Auriol has contributed towards the high spirits of our friend who is just gone."

"It was impossible that he could have been informed of the circumstance," replied she, "if he had, I am sure that he has so much friendship for me, that he would rejoice in hearing that I was happy."

"Well, well, we will not inquire into his motives for rejoicing; I must say, thus much, that I know no man more deserving of you than he is. Perhaps

you did not know that I am in his confidence, and have witnessed how much he has suffered, whilst he thought that you gave attention to Lord Auriol, and approved of the lot marked out by the caprice of Lady Dundorne. You will excuse me, I hope, in declaring my sentiments."

Emily now quitted her friends, in order to write to Doctor Moncrief, her more than father, whom she never thought of, without the sincerest affection. She reflected on the gay visions that had assailed her fancy on the first prospect of her elevation:

On the retrospect, she found that the very situation, that she at first view supposed to be fraught with delight, was no more than a will-o'-th'-wisp to cheat the imagination, and that no one solid enjoyment was attached to the dissipated scenes she had witnessed. Never had she seen the tear of sorrow wiped from the eye of the poor, or the balm

balm of sympathy and good council administered to the tale of woe. The people with whom she now associated, were too elegant and fashionable to admit any but well-dressed guests; not so, she thought was the conduct of the good and revered man, from whom she had received her education and principles. With him, misfortune was ever the passport to notice, and whether incurred by errors of the head or the heart, relief, to the best of his abilities, whether of a temporal or spiritual nature, was always administered.

“Why should I regret the want of fortune, when I am convinced that the possession of this so much desired gift is attended with so many unpleasant sensations? I will retire,” said she, “to the quiet retirement in which I was bred, and there, in constant attention to the most worthy and exalted of men, supply the place of her, whose virtues

will be rewarded by being raised to that rank she may adorn."

Impressed with these just sentiments, she wrote to Mr. Moncrief, and told him that she returned to his paternal roof with more heart-felt satisfaction than she could ever have enjoyed as the mistress of Lord Auriol's splendid mansions. She dwelt long on the offer of Lord Dundee, whom she represented as struck with the moral character, rather than the personal beauty of her sister; for he had heard Lady Auriol, when living, expatiate largely on the endowments of her mind, so that he esteemed before he saw her. With these favourable impressions, a tender passion soon arose, which now only waited his sanction.

Sarah came up before she had finished the letter. Lord Dundee had sent an apology for not keeping his appointment, as circumstances, materially relating to
Lord

Lord Auriol, called for his immediate attendance.

Sarah also wrote an affectionate letter to her father, praying him to search carefully over his own, and the deceased Rachel's papers, in order to substantiate Emily's claims. She owned to him that she should find no repugnance to accept the generous offer of Lord Dundee, provided it met with his approbation.

After having performed this duty, they retired to rest at an early hour, Mrs. Hornby being engaged in a party to Ranelagh.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE next day was appointed for the visit to the villa on Epping Forest.

Before the family had ended breakfast, came Mr. Aston, with the news that Lord Auriol had eloped with the daughter of a noted gambler; that it was said, they had taken their flight to the North, and it was supposed that Gretna Green would finish the frolic.

"And now," taking off his hat, Mr. Aston said, "let me, Miss Dundorne, congratulate you on your release from an engagement, the fulfilment of which
must

must have been attended with unceasing regret, if not melancholy consequences." Mr. Aston said, that he had been so teased to carry the news to them, that Elizabeth would hardly allow him to buckle his shoes.

"Thus we see" added Mr. Aston, "the folly of giving the rein to youth. I gave Lady Auriol many cautions, but she did not heed them; saying, that to curb him too soon would spoil his spirit. He acquired an habitual taste for low pleasures, and low company: inasmuch, that the society of his equals was irksome, and therefore to be avoided."

Emily was sorry for the imprudencies, into which a mad pursuit after his own pleasures, had now plunged Lord Auriol. This news explained Lord Dundee's apology and the nature of the business in which he was engaged.

Lady Dayrell was announced. She came in the true fashionable style of condolence, to be the first to announce
unwelcome

unwelcome news; to witness its effect, and then to run from house to house, laughing at the forsaken fair.

She ran in saying, "My dear Mrs. Hornby, I hope the news of Lord Auriol's marriage is not true. How is Miss Dundorne? has she heard of the folly of the wretch, to prefer a woman of the town for a wife? I have not common patience."

"But I am more concerned at another report, is every where in circulation, that Mr. Leland has got a decree in his favour, and that she really is what she was, when I first saw her, the daughter of old Dr. Moncrief."

"Lord, I am so shocked you can't imagine: what will the poor thing do? we must endeavour to get her some situation. Do let me see the poor thing."

"I hope our party to the Forest will not be put off. Oh! perhaps, the banker may yet be prevailed on."

"Well."

"Well," returned Mrs. Hornby, "Miss Dundorne is infinitely obliged to you for so much solicitude; as to her situation it is by no means so forlorn as your fears lead you to imagine, Lady Dayrell."

"For her release from a union with Lord Auriol, she is perhaps, at this moment rendering thanks to heaven."

"At prayers!" exclaimed the astonished Lady Die; "now that is really quite ridiculous."

"I am sorry to hear you say so," answered Mrs. Hornby, "I enter as much into the gaieties of life as your Ladyship; yet I cannot think that religion is at all an hinderance to innocent pleasures."

"Well," answered Lady Die, a little mortified, that she had avowed sentiments disapproved of by Mrs. Hornby: "I do go to church now and then, but I have not time to fall on my knees at every trifling occurrence that may happen."

Mrs.

Mrs. Hornby now said, that she had been misinformed as to the decree in favour of Mr. Leland, as it was delayed for some time longer, and that she had not the least doubt but Emily would be found to have a just right to the name she had assumed. Mrs. Hornby also said, that she was too well convinced of the probity and justice of Lady Auriol's character, to suppose that she would act any part unbecoming her rank.

"Oh! I am vastly glad to hear that you entertain such good hopes; then Miss Dundorne is not hurt at Lord Auriol's going off?"

"Not in the least," replied Mrs. Hornby; "and she intends to make one in our party this day; and is now gone up to dress; but I will let her know that your Ladyship is come to make kind enquiries."

"Oh! by no means," returned she; "good morning, I shall be too late to enjoy

enjoy the pleasures of Sir Walter's villa, if I do not run away."

Mrs. Hornby informed her husband of the malignity of disposition that had brought Lady Dayrell to be a witness to Emily's mortification. He on his part, related what he had heard concerning Lord Auriol's elopement with Miss Maria Ellis. "But," said Mr. Hornby, "as Auriol is capricious, and the mother is of the party, they are now making bets as to which will be reigning Sultana on their return. I cannot suppose that he intends marriage."

Mrs. Hornby thought differently; "however, she observed that a few days would determine this."

Mr. Hornby said, that he must encroach on a few minutes of Miss Dundorne's time, whenever she was dressed, which he desired his wife to request the favour that she would bestow on him; this commission she promised to execute, and left him for that purpose.

Mr.

Mr. Hornby had been, by appointment, to breakfast with Delme, who asked his advice and assistance, in what manner the most delicate, he could now ask permission to lay himself and fortune at the feet of his mistress. "Will she not think, that I meanly take advantage of the depression of her spirits, to offer her that situation that I dare not presume to think of whilst fortune smiled."

"For I understand," said he, "that there is only a fortnight given to substantiate the claim. Direct me, my best friend, what is proper to be done. Mr. Aston, who you know has acted in the most generous manner, when my own situation assumed a gloomy appearance, advises me to write to Miss Dundorne. This I cannot do. Will you say to her what your own mind may suggest on this subject. Entreat her to give me her hand, and Leland is welcome to take her wealth."

It

It was on this subject, then that Mr. Hornby wished to speak to Emily. She came to his library with a presentiment that he had something of moment to communicate. A distant hope that she guessed the subject, gave an additional interest to her countenance.

When she was seated, Mr. Hornby said that he had a commission to execute that required the utmost delicacy, as it might be thought that he presumed upon the honour done him by Miss Dundorne, in chusing his house for her residence; but, that he trusted to the goodness of her disposition to believe that he was entirely actuated, in what he had to lay before her, by motives of the sincerest friendship.

He then in the most lively and impressive language pleaded the cause of Delme, whose delicacy would not permit him (whilst there remained a shadow of doubt of an union between herself and Lord Auriol, being intended) to
put

put himself and humble fortune in competition with more splendid prospects. The fears that these might again be renewed, though in another person, made him now so anxious to declare his sentiments, which were enforced with all the rhetoric of which Mr. Hornby was in possession. He advised her as a father.

She was truly sensible of his friendship, and well disposed to be convinced by his arguments; yet she was a little offended with Delme, as she could not bear to be outdone in generosity.

Emily said that she was sorry to find that Mr. Delme considered her so much the slave to outward appearances, and that she would consider nothing of equal value to splendid connections.

Mr. Hornby would not allow that this opinion had ever been entertained by his friend, and endeavoured as much as possible to combat all her objections; for she frankly acknowledged that she had
been

been previously impressed with favourable sentiments in favour of Delme, and that he had certainly proved in the most unequivocal manner that he was uninterested in his former application to Mr. Moncrief, when he only knew her as his daughter.

Of this circumstance Mr. Hornby had never before been informed: as Delme had not even hinted at this; not knowing whether it had ever been communicated by Mr. Moncrief.

Emily said, that Mr. Hornby might assure Mr. Delme of her warmest esteem; but, that situated as she was, she could not think of forming an union with him, notwithstanding the generous motive that induced him now to solicit it. Whenever her situation was more decided, perhaps he might find her not so deficient of those sentiments of which he had done her the honour, on their first acquaintance to believe, she was possessed.

With

With this answer she left Mr. Hornby, happy in the prospect that now awaited her, and in possession of the affections of the only man for whom her heart had a decided preference; she felt an unusual gaiety which diffused itself over her whole form. The purport of Mr. Hornby's conversation she related to Miss Moncrief, who was by no means surprised at this declaration; as she well knew that the attachment he had at first avowed for Emily must be still the same, though the disparity in their fortunes and the design of an union between her and Lord Auriol had withheld him from soliciting her attention to his suit.

CHAPTER XXIX.

WE left Lord Auriol going to dine with his mistress, from whose father he had, that very morning, received an additional obligation. He met a select, rather than a large party. Each person had his part allotted, and each performed it well: if we are to judge from the completion of the scheme. At dinner, it was contrived that one of the company who was learned in the law, should hint at the circumstance of the disputed title of Emily, not being supposed to know of any intimacy between

her and Lord Auriol. He said that he should touch a considerable sum the next week, as the matter was proved beyond a doubt, that Miss was the parson's daughter, and not entitled to the estate, of which Mr. Leland, his client, would, as the next heir to Lord Dundorne, take immediate possession. Lord Auriol listened attentively, and then asked if this was actually true, as he would have been finely taken in, had he attended to his mother's advice.

The lawyer begged pardon, but did not know any of the parties were present—should be sorry to do the young lady any harm—but all in the way of business—had nothing to do in private affairs, except called in, in the way of his profession.

The whole party now joined in roasting his Lordship, as they termed it: he assured them, that he never had the least intention of marrying the silly girl, as Mr. Ellis well knew; Ellis appeared to
be

be doubtful. On this, Lord Auriol called for pen and paper, which was brought instantly; when he penned the letter, relinquishing all claim to the hand of Emily, which he instantly dispatched by Ellis's servant, and which was received by her with so much satisfaction.

This being one great step towards the completion of their plan, they plied Lord Auriol with so many bumpers, that by the time coffee was ready, he was willing to comply with any request that might put him in possession of her whom he adored. Being left alone with his mistress, he instantly proposed a trip to Scotland, as he said he knew that Dundee would never give consent to their union. This, Miss was, at first, a little averse to, but a few protestations to her beauty, and declarations that he could no longer live without her prevailed: and it was agreed, that at the time of the parties breaking up, a chaise

and four should whisk them towards the land of matrimony.

Ellis had too bad an opinion of the principles of his noble son-in-law elect, to trust his daughter alone with him out of his own house, therefore Mrs. Ellis was to be of the party, contrary to all precedent on these occasions.

Lord Auriol now sent for his servant and privy counsellor, when he gave him orders to put up what clothes he might want, and to be there again at twelve o'clock. Johnson suspected what journey they were going on, but as nothing was to be got by betraying the secret, and his place was a good one, he determined on obeying Lord Auriol with perfect silence and obedience. Besides, Ellis followed him out and promised that on his Lord's return to town, all arrears of wages should be paid, and gave him five guineas in earnest of the bargain.

At

At the appointed time, every thing was ready, as Ellis had the giving of all orders. Johnson was dispatched more than an hour before his master, in order to procure a relay of horses, as the good family were apprehensive that if Lord Dundee should come to the knowledge of the step taken by his nephew, he might attempt to make one, and so spoil the party.

This conjecture of Lord Auriol's was unlike most others that he formed, for it was founded on reason. However, there was little to be expected from pursuit, as Lord Dundee was not acquainted with the step taken by his nephew, until after they had proceeded full eighteen hours on the journey towards the north.

His Lordship delayed not a moment when he was acquainted with their route, to follow as quick as possible in hopes that he might be in time to prevent the destruction of all his hopes; for, though he had for ever put an end to any hopes

of an union, where he most wished it, yet he might still find a more suitable connection, than the disgraceful one, now on the point of taking place.

Possessed of money enough, and a favourite object in view, Mrs. Ellis did not let them stop a minute until any pursuit was rendered ineffectual, and she had had the supreme pleasure of congratulating her dear Maria, by the title of Lady Auriol.

Lord Dundee heard of them at each stage, where was related to him many anecdotes of the spirit and perseverance of the party who had knocked up all the horses that they had taken from each stage, by bribing the post boys to use the whip and spur, in so much, that many of the poor animals lay down on the road unable to return.

On his Lordship's arrival at Gretna, he was informed that the canonical blacksmith had done his business, and that the now happy pair, with their as happy mother

mother, were just set off from thence by another route. He cursed the whole party, and now determined never more to think of them if possible; if he could not do this, at least he would never take any notice of Lord Auriol as a relation.

He now proceeded towards his own house to give the necessary orders for its being put in a proper state for the reception of a lady, and also to make the proper inquiries concerning Miss Dundorne; and, if possible, to find out some one who could give intelligence that they were in great want, and without which, she must sink into that obscurity from which she had been taken by his sister. Though he himself had not the least doubt of her being the daughter of Lord and Lady Dundorne, yet it was absolutely necessary in matters of law to produce proof positive.

After every search possible, he found that no person in Scotland could give

the wished-for information. This his Lordship wrote to Mr. Hornby, lamenting the improvidence of his sister, not to have left some document that could have ascertained this point beyond a doubt.

This letter was received by Mr. Hornby while he was at breakfast. After having read it, he put it in his pocket, not wishing to cast a cloud on the spirits of Emily, before an absolute necessity should render it improper in him to make any concealment.

Scarcely were the breakfast things removed, when a post chaise and four drove up to the door, and to the unexpressible joy of Emily and Sarah, Mr. Moncrief alighted from it. Emily forgot all forms, and immediately ran into the hall, clasped the good man round the neck, where she shed tears of unfeigned joy. Sarah also welcomed her father with great pleasure to London. Mr. and Mrs. Hornby took their share in the congratulations.

congratulations. Mr. Hornby was glad that the Doctor had come thus opportunely, as all hopes were lost to console Emily under the disappointment.

The good Doctor did not however leave them long in doubt as to the motives that induced him to take the journey.

"Here, my dear," said he, "who will dispute your right to what is indisputably yours now? This paper will substantiate your right to the estates of Dundorne beyond a doubt." He gave a paper which he held in his hand to Emily who perused its contents, and found that all litigation must now be at an end.

"I do not know how it has been managed," said the good man, "but I always understood that Lady Auriol had a counterpart to this paper. However, my motives for withholding this, I hope are justified by the effect produced. I wished to see how the loss of fortune, to my

Emily, would be relished by him who was designed to receive her hand. I knew him to be undeserving of her, and he has proved that he was so. You will excuse me, Emily, for keeping you in suspense, when I knew it to be in my power to produce what would silence all other claimants. Until your letter arrived, I did not know there was so little time. I instantly sent for a chaise, and here I am. But come, let me look at you ; your looks are not improved by your residence in town, I must take you to Easham, and restore them to their wonted brilliancy."

Mr. Hornby now produced Lord Dundee's letter, since he said the contents were no longer of a painful nature. Dr. Moncrief said, that he had to write an answer to a letter received from his Lordship, and would take upon him to explain every thing to his satisfaction.

Joy, the most unbounded now took possession

possession of the sisters at the happy termination of what might have had a contrary turn, and also at the sight of a father they adored.

The good old man sat most delighted to hear Emily describe the different circumstances that had either excited joy or sorrow in her breast, since they parted. The day was spent in perfect happiness, and that no interruption might be given, Mrs. Hornby, ordered every one to be denied to them.

The paper brought by Doctor Moncrief, and so materially requisite, was a certificate signed both by Lord and Lady Dundorne, as also by Lady Auriol and Rachel, who had the care of their child, acknowledging that she was such, and describing that just above her right elbow there was a mark of a vine leaf, which on examination, plainly appeared on her right arm.

Emily, to divert the Doctor, gave him a description of her visit to Sir

Walter Rickets at Epping Forest, the day before, where they had been treated with true city profusion, and where she had the offer of being Lady Mayorefs, though evidently she was not so much attended to by Sir Walter as on the first introduction; for, Lady Dayrell pitied her situation so much, that she could not avoid deploring it to almost every person who came in her way. Delme had however made up to her, the want of attention in others; he had taken every opportunity to urge the sincerity of his regard, and to combat her objections, of which Mr. Hornby had informed him. She was determined to persist in the resolution of the waiting the decision of the law.

Being now put beyond a doubt that she was the heiress of Lord Dundorne, Dr. Moncrief advised her not to trifle with the heart of a worthy young man longer than was necessary. He thought that it would be proper that she took no decided step

step without first consulting Lord Dundee; indeed, as he was her guardian this would be impossible.

A party was proposed by Mrs. Hornby to go to Brighthelmstone, and there wait the return of his Lordship from Scotland. Delme desired to be allowed to go thither too, but Mr. Moncrief thought it most proper that he should either remain in London or return home with Mr. Aston to Troy Farm, as they were not to make their stay exceed a fortnight, at which period Mr. Moncrief hoped to see both his children happy.

Accordingly as proposed, the Hornbys accompanied by Dr. Moncrief, and Emily Dundorne, and Sarah Moncrief set off and arrived at Brighelmstone just as the place was filling with company. Emily could not help now and then wishing that Delme had been permitted to go thither also, though she saw and acknowledged the propriety of his remaining in town. To shorten the pains
of

of absence, he had permission to write to Emily, and, as she corresponded with Miss Aston, he would be informed of all that occurred to them worthy of notice.

CHAPTER XXX.

TH**ERE** is nothing so much calculated to restore the equilibrium, as it were, of the mind, too much agitated by emotions and passions of any kind, as various society, in which there is a perpetual effort on the part of each individual to step out of himself, and change pleasures by sympathy with the person with whom he converses. The numerous gay and easy company at Brighthelmstone operated on the mind of Dr. Moncrief and Miss Dundorne, that had been so much discomposed, like a charm.

They

They soon recovered their usual tones. That of the former, seriousness, mingled with an air of cheerful serenity; that of the latter, sprightliness tempered with an air of sensibility and reflection.

The Doctor was known and much attended to by a more numerous circle of acquaintance than he had imagined it possible for him ever to see together in one place: school and college acquaintances, gentlemen whom he had known abroad on their travels, and many others of different descriptions. The Doctor, however, with all his acquaintance, and all their esteem, was far less an object of attention than his amiable daughters, (for he always introduced them both as such), in whose manner and gait there appeared an air of so much propriety, grace, and an unaffected goodness, as disarmed, for the most part, envy itself, and drew the admiration and applause even of their own sex.

It was soon whispered about that both
Miss

Miss Dundorne and Miss Moncrief were pre-engaged among the circles acquainted with town, and the principal families of England and Scotland. This circumstance probably deprived them of the honour, or saved them from the importunity of new suitors among their countrymen, at this place of fashionable resort.—But not from the addresses of Asiatic lovers.

Abdallah Beg, was the son of a Tartar chief; or Khan, his mother, a beautiful Circassian, sold to the chief; according to the manner of the country, by her affectionate parents, only for such a sum of money and presents, as might afford a decent and honourable support to her in case of her being supplanted, as it commonly happens, in the affections of the Khan, by a younger rival. Abdallah, at the head of a company of horsemen, passed into India with other Affghan Tartars. After various adventures in the Rohilla country, he went into the
service

service of the Vizar, and from thence into that of the Nabob of Bengal, the famous Surajah Dowlah; who, after he had rendered himself universally unpopular and odious, by a violation of public credit, as well as private property, was attacked and overthrown by Lord Clive, and succeeded in the Nabobship by Meer Jaffier,

It is the wise and humane policy of the East to respect private property, even in the midst of revolution. This policy adopted by Lord Clive, consolidated the power and interests of England in that quarter of India.

The chief, with all his treasures undiminished, entered the service of the Mogul, and died soon after at Delhi. His son Abdallah, went, with an immense fortune, secured under the inviolate security of the Shroffs, or public bankers, to Surat, an ancient, large, and opulent city, on the north-west coast of India, nominally under the authority

thority of the Mogul empire, but actually under the power as well as protection of the English. On the rapid advances of the cruel Gholam Cawder Khan to Delhi, the young Abdallah, with the permission of the humane Shah Allum, the emperor, judged it prudent to retreat, as there had been an implacable hatred between that chief and the father of Abdallah, when in the service of Rohillas.

At Surat, Abdallah, who was habituated from his earliest years to entertain a great regard for the English, had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with many individuals of this nation, at and in the vicinity of Surat: but he was chiefly attached to the physician to the English Factory; a very worthy, as well as ingenious man; although he entertained a belief in many whimsies of the brain, such as Animal Magnetism, and the Doctrines of Swedenbourg; nor was it to be doubted, that he believed, like
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the rest of his countrymen of Kintail' in the second fight, although he could never be brought to answer the question whether he did or not, either in the affirmative or negative. Dr. Macraw, (for that was the name of the gentleman), had acquired a very genteel fortune at the age of fifty-five, and now longed to return to his native mountains. Abdallah Beg expressed a desire to accompany him, to which he very readily and cordially assented. They sailed, after the necessary preparations, in one of the Company's grabs from Surat to Bombay, and from thence, in the Melville Castle, to England. In the numerous train of Abdallah, consisting of Moors as well as Hindoos, both male and females; (for he was accounted the richest man in Surat) was a little lively Irishman, who had become so great a favourite with a native merchant of Surat, that he advanced him from a menial situation in his own house to the rank of a gentleman

man, having procured for him an ensigncy first, and soon afterwards a lieutenancy in the military service of the Company. The merchant dying, left Lieutenant O'Gahagan a legacy of no less than twenty thousand pounds. Abdallah and the Doctor admitted the Lieutenant very often into their cabin, taken conjointly, and which was the largest and most commodious in the ship, on account of the frisky gaiety and levity of his disposition, which served in some measure to relieve the monotony of a tedious voyage. It seemed as impossible for him to sit on a chair, as it was for a monkey ; though, certainly not for the same reason. He was for ever in motion, whistling and singing, displacing and replacing the furniture of the cabin, changing cloaths with the female slaves, blacking his face, and committing a thousand buffooneries and blunders. He could read as well as write a little, and as it was proper for a gentleman

man of fortune, had purchased a considerable number of books at Bombay, which afforded him the pleasure of arranging them, and frequently changing their position in a bookcase, but it is not supposed that he ever so much as read their title-pages. He was not without taste for music; but, he had not patience to learn the use of any kind of musical instrument. He therefore had purchased and introduced into his own little cabin a barrelled-organ, between which and the quarter-deck he was in constant motion; except, when he was admitted to play his gambols in the more spacious apartments of Abdallah. Yet so ignorant and thoughtless are many of those upstart mortals, who rise in India to plentiful fortunes from the lowest origin, that two fine young boys were committed to his care by some of his acquaintance, who never dreamt that any thing might be wanted where money was at command, and who were extremely happy

happy in an opportunity of sending them under this travelling governor for their education in England.

Nothing extraordinary happened during the voyage. It was most tedious and dreadful to O'Gahaghan, who suffered more from constant ennui, notwithstanding the perpetuity of his motion, than he could have done from the dangers of a tempestuous voyage. On this occasion, an intelligent observer had an opportunity of remarking the inexpressible advantages of a learned education, and even without profound knowledge, of a taste for books, interest and agitate the passions almost any how, and we are happier than in a state of stagnation, which in proportion to the vigour of the mind is despair and death. What restiveness is to the matter, activity is to the soul. It finds ease and rest in motion. Unoccupied, unmoved, it sinks down into langour and despair.

Dr. Macraw found unexhausted amusement

ment in reading various books of science, particularly on the subject of Physiology and Natural History. He himself had a manuscript, the fruit of many excursions into the interior of India, describing the animals, particularly, the serpents of that country. Abdallah read, not only such entertaining, and we may almost say, sublime romances, as the Arabian Nights' Entertainments, but the histories of the celebrated princes of the Mogul and other Tartars, and the institutes of Timur and Akbar. The poor Lieutenant seemed just to be possessed of as much reflection and capacity for thinking, as set him at variance, and in a state of hostility with himself: to deprive him of the happy stupor of mere animal life, without affording so much as a taste for intellectual enjoyment. It must not be omitted that he endeavoured to enlarge the narrow circle of his amusement by promoting discord and mischief.

CHAPTER.

CHAPTER XXXI.

ON the arrival of the Melville Castle off Falmouth, the India party came directly ashore, and were all impatient to visit the far-famed metropolis, London, the greatest city now, and indeed probably the greatest that ever was, as far back as history reaches, in the world. They remained all together with Dr. Mac-craw and Abdallah, as was originally intended; and the Lieutenant thought himself highly honoured, as indeed he was, by their society. He in return was extremely serviceable as far as his ex-

VOL. III. H treme

treme activity could be serviceable. A hint, a look, would set him in motion: though, he often mistook what was wanted, and fell of course into the most ludicrous, and sometimes the most vexatious blunders. Yet they forgave every thing. It was impossible to be offended where every thing was so well intended.

The Doctor had been so long absent from Britain, that it did not occur to him at first that post-chaises might be had to London, and that this mode of travelling was not beneath the dignity of even princes of the blood royal. He therefore, after a refreshment at the inn at Falmouth, where they were to rest all night, began to mention the necessity of purchasing carriages for conveying themselves and servants to London. Scarcely was the word spoken, when O'Galaghan, flew like an arrow from a bow, and was in treaty for the purchase of several carriages, supremely happy in displaying

displaying his own wealth, and that of his friends, in a ready and careless kind of complaisance with whatever the coach-maker demanded. In the mean time, the landlord of the inn, who had chaises to let, understanding what was going on, came into the room, and let the gentlemen know into what unnecessary expence they were likely to be involved through the precipitate officiousness of the Lieutenant: orders were immediately sent to stop proceedings, which was not done without a handsome present to the coach-maker. This, however, he was ashamed to charge to the common travelling stock, as it was his own rashness that had led them into the scrape. Indeed, he did not consider the topaz he gave the tradesman as altogether lost to himself, since it seemed to display his affluence, which was the grand purpose for which he came to England. This was in fact his ruling and almost his only passion. He was by no means a

bon vivant, or *scavoir vivre*; he was not a gambler; he seemed perfectly indifferent to female charms; he had not a spark of generosity or compassion. Nay, with all his good-natured servility to his superiors, he was harsh and cruel to all whom he considered as his inferiors or dependants, and was, particularly, in the habit of beating a young woman, his own cousin, whom he had invited from Ireland, in order, as he said, to provide for her, most unmercifully: yet, by the fidgetting restlessness of his disposition, ever purchasing this or that, ever changing his furniture and lodgings, and ever moving from place to place, he actually contrived to spend the whole of his fortune in the space of two years, and was obliged to borrow money for the purpose of carrying him back to India. The strangers from Surat, on the second day after they left Falmouth in a train of six coaches, arrived at Bates's Hotel in the Adelphi. He had not accommodation

commodation for the whole party ; but a thought struck him, that the Turkish Ambassador lived in his near neighbourhood, who might be disposed and happy in an opportunity of shewing kindness and hospitality to Abdallah, a worshipper of the Prophet, at least for one night, until he himself should be able to clear his own hotel, or somehow provide near it a suit of apartments for so rich and magnificent a guest. He was not mistaken ; Mahomet Ali received Abdallah with infinite kindness. He became intimate with the household of the Ambassador, though the master of the hotel derived not a little advantage from the charge of his family. Dr. Macraw took a furnished lodging, and spent his time in visiting and inquiring about his friends. The Lieutenant took up his quarters at one of those inns, where waggons, coaches, and other carriages put up. He had no relations in town, nor one friend or acquaintance. He became

extremely intimate with the master and mistress of the house, whom he made his chief confidants. He employed them to look out for a tutor to the two young Nabobs, he said, whom he had with him in their house, where he proposed to live for some time; at least, to make it his head quarters, while he should make some excursions: the youths, with their tutor, might pursue their studies at the inn. The principal accomplishments to be obtained, were dancing and the French language. They should be paid liberally, he said, for their apartments and table: at the same time, that he should be sorry to occupy any apartments that might in any other way bring more to the family: thus fishing for a compliment to his fortune. The landlady begged he would not mention it, they should not quit their apartments; no, not for the Prince of Wales, nor the Duke of Bedford.

It became the landlady's business,
(for

(for her husband, when not drinking, was always about the stables) now to look out for a tutor to the boys, who at eight and nine years of age, seemed to have attained to the gravity and discretion of manhood.—There was in the inn, at that very time, a Welch curate, a countryman of the landlady's, who had come to town seeking employment, and who, in the mean time, had the run of her kitchen. She asked him if he would undertake the charge in question, the principal thing being only French, of which even her cook was a perfect master. The curate, Mr. Lewyn, knew a little Latin, scarcely a smattering of French. However, being pushed by necessity, the mother of invention, he fell on an ingenious contrivance. He had suspected O'Galahan to be no great head-piece, from very obvious circumstances; but before he would venture to undertake the charge, he desired to be introduced,

and to pass an evening with him, which was readily agreed to. The Lieutenant poured forth an incessant volley of frivolity and nonsense, boasting much of his adventures at *Sowrat*, and of his friend Abdallah's father, being the chief man with the great Nabob of Bengal, *Sir Roger Dowlie*. The curate no longer hesitated to undertake the tuition of the young Nabobs, and particularly to instruct them in the French language. To this he considered that the *Welsh*, which was in fact spoken in part of France, Bretagne, was not a whit inferior in point of antiquity, the main point on every subject between superiors. He therefore set about teaching this French of the Celtic to his pupils, with equal assiduity and success; speaking nothing else to them at table on almost any occasion—and after an interval of about six months, he invited O Galaghan to prove their proficiency, by stating to him any question or order

to

to be given them in the French language. Taking aside the tutor to a corner of the room, he whispered in his ear what he should say to the boys in French. They, by their actions and their answers, shewed that they readily, for the most part, understood him, and as they could also converse a little in Welch, the Lieutenant was abundantly convinced of their progress. If any one hinted a doubt of the curate's proficiency in French, he would say, "tush! tush! *I have proof positive.*" They lived, during the Lieutenant's stay in England, at the inn: at his departure, when it was judged proper to send them to a boarding school, the tutor recommended with effect a Welch clergyman, who kept an academy in the suburbs of London, to whom, he himself confided the secret, and to whom he became an assistant.

CHAPTER XXXII.

AFTER some months spent in London and its environs, the party from Surat determined to pass some time at Brighthelmston. Abdallah, from a delicacy truly commendable, was easily persuaded by the Doctor to leave the greater part of his train in London, as this Asiatic pomp was not consonant with the European style of life and manners. A few male servants, and two favourite female slaves, was all his suite; he took great delight in the festive scenes at Brighton, and observed that
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the people here, in the frequent and regular performance of their ablutions, appeared to approach nearer to the purity of Muffulmen, than those of London; by whom that healthful, as well as sacred rite, notwithstanding the plenty they enjoyed of living water appeared to be utterly neglected.

Though he had been to the opera, the theatres, Kensington gardens, Ranelagh, and every place of gay and fashionable resort in London, he could not help still to feel a degree of astonishment at the generous indulgence with which the British ladies permitted, not only their own countrymen, but strangers from all nations, and of all sects of religion, to behold the unrivalled beauty of their countenances, the symmetry of their whole frame, and the grace and dignity of their motion. As the Hornby family, including Miss Dundorne and Doctor Moncrief and his daughter, at the time when the

East Indians arrived at Brighton, happened to be among the latest come, and the most talked of: the eyes of Abdallah were naturally drawn to the two lovely sisters, but he preferred the piercing black eyes and the serious and dignified, though easy gait of Sarah Moncrief, to the fine blue eyes, the brighter complexion, and the sprightlier manner of Miss Dundorne. He became sincerely enamoured, and declared himself to his friends in the Eastern style, to be sick of love.

Abdallah was of the middle stature and well proportioned, uniting in his person the easy grace and the flexibility of the Hindoos, with that muscular strength, which he inherited from his Tartarian ancestors. His lively and penetrating eyes bespoke a soul expanded by the sublime sentiments of the writer, with whom he was so constantly conversant, and softened by the power of all-conquering love. It is
well

well known that Eastern lovers never urge their suit in person, but through the intervention of some relation or friend. Abdallah sent the following short billet by his friend Doctor Mac-craw :

“ To the unspotted and heavenly Dervis Monerief, the worshipper of God, and the adorer of all the patriarchs and prophets. Abdallah, also a believer, descended of antient Princes, and blest by divine Providence with a fortune not unworthy of Kings, sends peace, health, and his prayers for every blessing.—What can I say more?

“ I have seen your daughter Sarah—I see her now; for she is ever present to my imagination—nor can I well distinguish this enchanting vision from her real presence—she has melted and subdued my soul with the celestial beams that flow from her’s through her eyes, and all her speech and actions.—I pray for permission to throw myself at her feet,

feet, and to receive her in marriage, as the arbiters of my happiness, the disposer of my substance, and the Queen of my Haram.—My words are not worthy to be addressed to so holy and sublime a Dervis; but your daughter overpowers and overwhelms me. The enlightened sage who carries this, will answer any questions, and bring your reply to this.”

Dr. Macraw being properly introduced, delivered this letter to Dr. Moncrief with the most perfect seriousness, and with many protestations of his friend's affluence, as well as his virtues. The good Dr. Moncrief was not a little astonished; but, far from treating this as a matter of laughter, he sympathised with Abdallah, knowing that in Asiatic bosoms the passion of love may be carried to the most painful height, if not accepted and returned. But the ladies, understanding the business, could not help being merry on occasion, and were
not

not averse to give Abdallah's friend an opportunity of conversing on the subject.

Emily observed, that he had several wives already. The Doctor replied, that a plurality of wives which had always been customary in Asia, was not inconsistent with the Christian religion. He expatiated on the wealth of Abdallah, the magnificence of his baths and gardens at Surat; the number of his carriages; elephants, slaves, &c. &c. Miss Moncrief professed the liveliest sense of respect and gratitude to the Tartarian chief, and left her father to explain her situation and give an answer. The reverend Doctor replied in a proper manner to Abdallah and informed him, that his daughter was already betrothed to another husband; with which answer Abdallah was perfectly satisfied: for the Mahometans never indulge their fancies in the same licentiousness, that often in Europe

Europe trample at once on religious ties and the peace of families.

By this time Dr. Macraw, who had easy access to the house of Mr. Hornby at all times, had fallen deeply in love with Miss Dundorne, although he had formed a resolution to marry no one, (if ever he married), but a native of the Highlands. He did not forget his own years, nor was he ignorant of the number of admirers and suitors in the train of Miss Dundorne, but he trusted for success to a very extraordinary expedient. First having drawn her one morning at breakfast into deep attention to his reports concerning what was most interesting in India, she continued to listen to him after the rest of the company had all of them withdrawn. He took this opportunity to assail and subdue her mind, and to bring it into concord and sympathy with his own by means of animal magnetism. He summoned up all the passion
and

and affection he meant to transfuse into his eyes and gesture, and played the usual tricks of animal magnetism with his fingers. Miss Dundorne burst into laughter. The Doctor perceived that this mode of attack led to nothing.

Another morning he seized a similar occasion to try another stratagem. He had not only read and been informed that in Africa, as well as India, there are certain species of serpents that fascinate birds with their eyes, inasmuch, that the poor trembling creatures are drawn to them, and fall into their power insensibly; but he had himself actually witnessed this process. He put on an enormous black wig, with reddish powder, and set to work to fascinate Miss Dundorne by the most dreadful grins, frowns, and flashes from his eyes, of rage, despair, and revenge. Miss Dundorne, instead of laughing at the Doctor, now supposed him to be mad, and was in a great fright; but, instead of falling into
his

his arms, she ran hastily to the door, and alarmed the house with an account of what she took to be an epileptic or some other kind of fit. The Doctor was then satisfied that there is no charm or incantation in matters of love, equal to that of youth and a handsome appearance.

Miss Dundorne, about the same time, was addressed by a lover not less extraordinary in the person of Mr. Macalpin, agent or doer, as they are called in Scotland, to Lord Dundee.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Edinburgh.

MR. MACALPIN TO LORD DUNDEE.

My very good Lord,

THE honour of your Lordship's letter, dated at Portman Square, London, on the day of the month of in the year of our Lord, I duly received, and have taken the contents thereof into due and serious consideration. Concern-
ing

ing the business you mention, I have searched the Register Office and other Records, and I find the family of Dundorne to be of very high antiquity, as it may be clearly traced up to Alexander the 1st. King of Scots, with whom Kenneth Dow, *i. e.* Block, in Stratherne went to the North in order to repel the Danes from Munaz; and was, on the return of the king to Scone, rewarded by a charter, bearing date Anno Domini 1140, with the lands of Dundorne, in Strathern. Allusion is made to the same lands in some of the papers brought heretofore to our Advocate's library, from the Abbey of Inchaffra; concerning the tenure of those lands, I must confess, that a doubt may arise concerning the *hæredibus quibusdam*, not only inasmuch as it is clearly the preamble to the charter, that it was in consequence of a reward for his military virtues and services, that Kenneth Dow was vested in the lands and Lordship

ship of Dundorne, conditions, which a female could not fulfil; but, that in one of the manuscripts relating to this matter, there is a strong appearance of an erasure having taken place after the word *quibusdam*, which erasure may be said, not without verosimilitude, may have been *maribus*. I fear, my Lord, that both the reason of the thing, and a strong suspicion of a matter of fact, concur to lay a foundation for endless litigation, and perhaps of finally defeating the claims of the heiress of Dundorne, unless the business be managed with more than ordinary diligence, acuteness, learning, eloquence, and discretion. I believe I have mentioned to your Lordship that since my fortune enabled, and my years furnished an apology, (though in truth many an older man is in full practice and accounts himself young) for my retreat from the bustle of the bar on common occasions, I have employed my leisure very much in genealogical researches,

searches, and in ascertaining a point most important to my family, and indeed not unimportant in the history of Europe, and particularly that of the Royal houses: which point is, that the Chevalier Charles Stuart being now dead, and the Cardinal of York being disqualified from marriage, besides the circumstance of his being effete through age, several of the titles belonging to, and formerly enjoyed by, the royal family of the Stuarts of the male line, descend upon me the lineal male representative of that family, and the heirs male of my body lawfully begotten. In the course of my researches it has appeared, beyond all doubt, that no distant affinity may be traced between the Macalpin's and Dundorne's, though the Grants and Uquharts, with several of whom, as well as with their kindred cousins, both Macalpin's and Dundorne's have heretofore intermarried.

Your Lordship will, no doubt, have
already

already perceived the drift of these remarks on the present occasion. I confess it, my Lord, I am loath to forfeit such just and splendid claims, by any fault on my part, either of *commission* or *omission*; and nothing surely can be imagined more natural than a matrimonial connection between the young person who has claims (though very disputable) on the Lands and Lordship of Dundorne, and one who cannot only ennoble any woman by marrying her, but is both able and willing to make good her claims, for the common benefit of their joint posterity.

I have not seen the young person in question. I am told she is handsome. That is a point of extreme indifference to me, she is young and healthy I understand, and likely (to speak familiarly) to be a good breeder. What with my accumulations laid out on the lowest mortgages and her estates, please God, there will be provision for more than

than one or two children. For myself, I enclose the following extract from the parish register of Fortingal:

“ October 16th, 1740. This day baptized a male child by the name of Andrew. His parents, Donald Macalpin and Christian Macallum, his spouse, both of this parish.” Your Lordship perceives that all the diversity of age is but a trifle, where objects of such importance are in question. Nevertheless, as there is no harm in any innocent accommodations to youthful fantasies, I have got a handsome tie-wig, as the hairs on the occiput* began to be deficient, in which you would wonder how much better and younger I look. I have also been practising my old steps, and even learned some new ones privately, at the house of Mr. Downie. Farther still, I have been rubbing up

* The anatomical term for the forepart of the head.

my violoncello, and can bear a hand at a private concert. For the three teeth which I lost, not through age, but by a blow from that Highland ruffian, after he lost his plea through my abilities, I have got those teeth replaced by a dentist, late from Lepfick, in such a manner as to defy all detection. I beg my respects and warmest acknowledgments to Miss Dundorne : and if, through your Lordship's influence and persuasion, she could be prevailed onto wave all ceremony, and just to comedown to Edinburgh with any female friend, she may choose to accompany her, and call at my house, No. 10, Argyle Buildings ; this would be very convenient for me at this time, as I am deeply immersed in the consultation of books and papers relating to both her interest and my own ; which, by the blessing of God, I trust will soon become one. Nevertheless, if through any female modesty or shyness, the young lady should be reluctant to come with-

out my fetching her, I well cheerfully be at the expence of a journey myself to London. I have not failed to look after the little matters respecting the approaching expiration of the leases, &c. and all things are in a proper train.

If Miss Dundorne and I should come together, I will not take one farthing from your Lordship for the management of your affairs, but continue to do it gratis; though, I would not have you mention to the lady what I am going to say, yet it will be allowed by your Lordship to be a proof of my disinterested regard and attachment, that, as her claims are disputed, and in truth so disputable, I take her to wife, only as it were, in some measure, on speculation. I have the honour to be,

My very good and noble Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient,

Faithful and humble servant,

ANDREW MACALPIN.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XXXIV.

THE fortnight spent at Brighton had passed in a very pleasant and rapid manner. Miss Dundorne was so well pleased with the amusements of the place, that she could have spent the remainder of the season there most happily, had not some thoughts of the anxiety and suspense of distant friends, forbid her to indulge a wish to protract their stay longer than the time first fixed for their return. However, she anticipated the pleasure of some future period ; when accompanied by Delme, she

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should enjoy the festivities of the place without alloy.

Mrs. Hornby, too, could not think of leaving Brighton just as Lewis races were commencing; and, as Mr. Moncrief did not propose to remain more than a few days in London, he begged that she would not think of returning with them, but allow them to depart alone, with leave to make her house their home for a few days.

To this proposal of the good Doctor's she most readily acceded, desiring them, when at Portland Place, to consider themselves at Eatham.

Miss Dundorne and Dr. Moncrief left Brighton just when they had become the general admiration and the general conversation of the place: a most dangerous situation to some people, though to those young ladies it was of very little consequence. The ridiculous stories of the Tartar, and of the courtship of Dr. Macraw and Mr. Macalpin, had been circulated through
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the place, to the great amusement of the idle people, who are on the watch to catch at any thing either ludicrous or envious, that will snatch them from their constant enemy and attendant, ennui.

Dr. Moncrief and the ladies arrived in town the same evening that they left Bighthelmstone in good spirits. On their alighting from the chaises, they found that Lord Dundee's servant had been at Mr. Hornby's that morning, to inquire when they were expected: his Lordship had arrived the night before.

A messenger was dispatched to his Lordship, and another to inquire if Mr. Aston had yet quitted London, as Miss Dundorne had expected a letter from Miss Aston some days. Delme himself brought the answer that Elizabeth and Mr. Aston had waited at his request for their return, and would expect them the next day to dinner; and in the mean time he came to inquire af-

ter their health, and to request that his state of probation might be shortened, as the lawyers might delay the suit for many months.

The Doctor and Miss Moncrief left the lovers to adjust this matter, as should best please themselves; only he desired to see Mr. Delme for a few minutes previous to his leaving the house.

Emily's scruples were soon outweighed by the prayers and intreaties of Delme. Before they parted, she promised to give him her hand, at the same time that Sarah should be united to Lord Dundee. This satisfied Delme; for, judging of the impatience of his Lordship by his own, he did not think the period could be a far distant one, that would put him in possession of her whom he esteemed the highest blessing heaven could bestow.

After taking leave of Miss Dundorne, Mr. Delme waited on Dr. Moncrief, who in the most friendly and fatherly manner expressed

expressed his happiness that Emily had been at liberty to bestow her hand and fortune on one whom he believed highly deserving. To this approbation Augustus made suitable acknowledgments. He now informed Dr. Moncrief, that his beloved Emily had at length consented to his happiness. The Doctor observed, that he was glad to hear this, but that it would be proper for Lord Dundee (who was the guardian of Miss Dundorne, and without whose consent no union could take place), to be acquainted with the matter, and with the approbation of Mr. Delme, he would open the business to his Lordship, at their meeting the next day. Augustus highly approved of this, and thanked Dr. Moncrief, saying, that he could not fail of success with so able a negotiator. Of the result of his embassy the Doctor said, he would inform him when they came to Mr. Aston's the next day. Delme then took his leave, and

returned to South Audley Street, so much elevated with the progress that he had made, that Miss Aston really believed him to be in a state of intoxication. No one rejoiced more at the happy termination of the matter, than Mr. Aston and his daughter, for the former had taken so much interest in whatever concerned Delme, that he considered himself as a father, and Elizabeth viewed him as an affectionate brother. Augustus could not think himself in full security of the possession of the woman of his heart, until the consent of Lord Dundee had been obtained, of which he could not help expressing some fears.

Early the next morning, Lord Dundee waited on the ladies. He congratulated Miss Dundorne on the happy termination of her suit with the Lelands, as the lawyers were perfectly satisfied, and the Court of Sessions had decided the cause in her favour the day before he left Edinburgh. "And I, Madam,"

Madam," said he, "have travelled post as your courier, to bring the glad tidings; but like all people of this description I had my reward in view, which knowing the generosity of your disposition, will not, I hope, be withheld on this occasion."

Miss Dundorne assured his Lordship, that it was impossible any thing within the limits of her abilities could reward him for the care and trouble he had had on her account. But, she believed that she might promise to comply with any request that he should think proper to make, as some little compensation.

"This, then," said his Lordship, "is my petition, that you will prevail on Miss Moncrief to come an early day for the completion of my felicity. She very delicately delayed her consent when I left town, alledging, that she could never be truly happy while you was in a state of suspense. This being now removed,

I take it for granted, that she will not any longer object to my wishes."

"Well," replied Sarah, covered with blushes, "but, my Lord, perhaps the state of suspense is not yet removed. Whenever Emily says it is, I will then allow your Lordship's claim."

Lord Dundee appeared rather surprised at this answer. But Dr. Moncrief replied, "My Lord, with your leave we will retire, and it shall be my business to explain the meaning of my daughter."

The two gentlemen now left the room to the satisfaction of both the ladies, who both fancied themselves in an awkward situation.

Dr. Moncrief now explained to the guardian of Miss Dundorne the affection that subsisted between Delme and herself, and also the very disinterested manner in which he had first requested permission to address her as his daughter.

ter. There certainly was no pretensions in point of fortune, for Mr. Delme to address Miss Dundorne, but I hope that innate goodness will weigh in your Lordship's mind against mere worldly possessions; and in point of family, Mr. Delme is not inferior to that of the house of Dundorne. This last great and material point being explained to his Lordship's entire satisfaction, Delme being able to trace his descent down to one of the Saxon kings, he said, that he believed that to forward his own suit he must yield to the ladies the right of judging for themselves, and that Dr. Moncrief might assure Mr. Delme that he should not retard his suit; which, if approved by Miss Dundorne, had his full approbation. His Lordship then in the most friendly and delicate manner talked over his own arrangements, as to his union with Miss Moncrief: he informed the Doctor that he had directed a settlement of two thousand pounds per an-

num, to be made out, and it was now ready to be signed.

The good man, in his turn, expressed his warmest gratitude for the flattering distinction with which he and his daughter had been treated by his Lordship; hoping that she, by her conduct, might be found deserving the elevated rank to which she was, by his goodness, soon to be raised.

Lord Dundee now took leave of Dr. Moncrief in order to dress for dinner, as he was engaged by Mr. Aston to meet them at his house.

A more happy assembly could not have met, than those in South Andley Street. Lord Dundee took an opportunity, as he went early, to speak to Mr. Aston and Delme, and to tell the latter of these gentlemen that he had expected the application; as he had heard of the attachment long before. "However, I could have wished that Auriol had deserved her as well as you have done

done ; as it is, may you both be as happy as I wish you."

The day was spent in much harmony, all intruders were excluded. "We are too happy to-day," said Mr. Aston, "to admit of any thing of a negative quality. Only," said he, "I must beg leave to introduce in the evening Mr. Harley, as a friend of mine." Elizabeth blushed, and Lord Dundee and the party soon perceived that he was a received lover of Miss Aston's. This was put beyond a doubt when he arrived ; for Mr. Aston said, on introducing him, "My Lord, I here present to you my future son-in-law. I have always promised my consent to the union of Mr. Harley and my daughter, whenever Delme should be so happy as to receive your Lordship's approbation to his union with Miss Dundorne ; this has been to-day obtained, and I am anxious to perform my promise." Mr. Harley bowed thanks, whilst Miss Aston was covered with confusion

confusion at her father's abrupt manner.

"Come, come," said Mr. Aston, "ladies are always bashful on these occasions, and the sooner a scene of this kind is past, the better: let me have the happiness, as the common father of all, to name a day that shall ever after by us all be thought on with satisfaction."

Lord Dundee and the gentlemen all answered yes, yes.

"The ladies give consent," said Mr. Aston, "by their blushes;" then on Thursday week, at Easham, Doctor Moncrief shall perform the indissoluble ceremony."

The Doctor bowed his assent, while tears of joy mingled with regret, fell down his venerable cheek.

Emily was hurt to see the good Doctor so much moved whilst at Mr. Aston's, and guessing that his separation from them was the cause, she instantly
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on their return, begged that he would not consider their union as a separation from him, for that as long as she should live, he must consent to reside with her; or, if that did not meet his approbation, that he must be within a walk of her; and as Lord Dundee's estate was not more than eight or ten miles distant, he would always be within a ride of Lady Dundee.

The Doctor acknowledged that he had made many melancholy anticipations, which were now done away, and he consented to accede to the proposal of Miss Dundorne, whom, he said, he should ever consider as a second daughter.

The few days that the Moncrief family remained in London, was spent in preparations for the approaching nuptials which were to be celebrated at Easham. As some little preparation at the Parsonage was necessary, Doctor Moncrief

Moncrief set off with Miss Dundorne and Miss Moncrief a few days previous to that. The evening before they left London was spent at Lady Dayrell's, where Miss Dundorne heard an account of Lord and Lady Auriol, which gave her much pain, not on his own, but on the account of his family. His fortune must very soon fall into the hands of Ellis, who was deep and designing. Lady Dayrell promised to herself much entertainment the ensuing winter with the new-made lady. She had already paid her a visit, indeed, so had half the town; "for," said Lady Dile, "she gives sumptuous entertainments, and whilst she continues doing this, she can never be in want of society." Sir John Dayrell said, "that if Lady Auriol had been his wife, he would either have buried her into the country, or have smothered up in town what she had been a bubble more town-made." However, she

she is not a whit behind hand in point of inclination to extravagance, for I sat behind her whilst she coolly lost eight hundred, which she laughed at immoderately, though I observed a frown on the brow of her father, who watches that no one shall pigeon them but himself."

Lady Dayrell applied to Miss Moncrief to use her influence with Lord Dundee, that he might be reconciled to his nephew, as his Lordship had refused to see him, or receive any message from him. Sarah replied, that she must be excused, for that the partiality of Lord Dundee towards her, did not authorise her to abuse it by any interference in family concerns.

Lady Die declared that these were quite antideluvian notions. "For Heaven's sake don't introduce them, Miss Moncrief, men ought to be subservient; don't teach them bad lessons, don't

don't you know the old proverb "Train up a child in the way that he should go, and he will never depart from it." This, my dear, applies equally to husbands, if you manage rightly."

"And," said Sir John, "is it not also applicable to wives also."

"Yes," said her Ladyship, "if you can meet with obedient ones."

"Well then, I cannot try the experiment," answered Sir John, laughing.

Delme, followed to Sir John Dayrell's with Miss Aston, as they had not taken leave of the ladies, and they were to set off for Easham early the next morning. After many promises of correspondence on the part of Lady Die, they took their leave, and they returned to Portland Place, where were Doctor Moncrief, Lord Dundee, Mr. Aston, and Mr. Harley. At this last meeting in London, every thing was arranged, and in two days after it was settled by
Doctor

Doctor Moncrief and the ladies, that the lovers should follow to Easham. The most disagreeable part of the business was over, the settlements were signed; at parting, Lord Dundee put into the hand of Doctor Moncrief a paper, desiring him to look it over at leisure.

On the Doctor's return to the parlour where he had left the ladies, to see Miss Aston to her carriage, he opened the paper, and found it a settlement of one thousand pounds a year, signed by Lord Dundee and Mr. Delme, to be paid to the Doctor, during the remainder of his life, as a token of respect and gratitude.

The Doctor could not refrain from tears at this mark of affection, shewing the paper to Emily and Sarah, he said, "you, my children, will receive more satisfaction than I do, from this proof of attention and regard to an old man, who, thank God, did not need it, though
he

he accepts it with gratitude and affection."

Nothing could have been so truly gratifying to the minds of both these young ladies, as this proof of attention in their lovers. They each embraced their venerable father, and with tears of unfeigned joy, congratulated him on the prospect that they would never more be separated.

Early in the morning they set out for Easham, where, on their arrival, they found the bells ringing, and every demonstration of unfeigned joy from the honest rustics, who crowded round the Parsonage, to welcome the dear good young ladies.

Emily found that there was one welcome wanting to render her happiness complete, and she heaved a sigh, and gave a tear to the memory of an old and faithful servant, such as Rachel had ever proved.

The scenes of her infancy now rushed upon

upon the mind of Miss Dundorne, and produced a most pleasing melancholy, which was succeeded by more cheerful reflections, that she had violated no promise, nor left any duty unperformed, for which she was most grateful to the great Disposer of events.

The ladies were busied in receiving the congratulations of their country friends, who flocked from all quarters, and in making preparations for the approaching festival.

The village maids insisted on making garlands to adorn the church and pulpit, which occupied the time and attention of every description of persons.

On Tuesday evening arrived Miss Aston, Lord Dundee, Mr. Aston, and Mr. Delme, with Mr. Harley. The Parsonage was quite crowded, but as the good Doctor was highly loved and respected, one of his nearest neighbours accommodated them with his house, going himself to the inn, for the few days that it was necessary.

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The village bells announced the arrival of the happy day that was to complete the felicity of three amiable and deserv-
ing young ladies. At nine o'clock the carriages drove up in a style of elegance, hitherto unknown in this obscure situation. Lord Dundee's coach, which was entirely new, attended by two footmen in superb liveries, stood first, into which his Lordship handed Miss Moncrief, dressed with simplicity and elegance: the Doctor took his seat, and then Mr. Delme's carriage received Miss Dundorne, Miss Auriol, who had come down with her uncle on this occasion, and Mr. Delme. Mr. Aston's coach conveyed himself, Miss Aston, and Mr. Harley to the church, which was so crowded, that they could hardly get up to the altar, where Doctor Moncrief performed the ceremony in so pathetic and impressive a manner, as affected every one present. At the conclusion, and on their taking their
seats

seats in the carriages, the blessing of the surrounding crowd followed them to the Parsonage, where an elegant breakfast awaited their return, as Doctor Moncrief had requested the presence and assistance of a lady of his neighbourhood. After staying about two hours, the whole party set off in their way to Scotland, except Mr. Aston and Mr. and Mrs. Harley, who now took leave of the two brides, promising to make them a visit in the North, the next spring. They returned to Troy Farm, where they were congratulated by their friends, and now live a blessing to all around them.

This day of general happiness was but a prelude to many succeeding years of felicity. In Scotland, the families of Dundee and Dundorne (to which title Mr. Delme succeeded) lived respected and revered. The good Doctor Moncrief lived to see a race of amiable children, who, imitating the example of their

their parents, were the pride and blessing of that country, of which they were the support.

Lord Auriol, in a few years, finished a career of follies by a scene of riot and intoxication, despising those who had led him from his duty, and deploring the mistaken fondness of his mother, who had given no curb to his will, until it was too late. His wife and he had soon separated after their marriage, consequently, most of his fortune went with her, as Ellis had taken care to secure great part of this; though soon after, an unfortunate speculation rendered him nearly a beggar, from which state he at first arose, he now again sunk into insignificance, attended by the curses of the widow and the orphan.

Thus even-handed Justice gave to the virtuous their reward, while vice and folly met that punishment that never fails to attend a deviation from those paths to which virtue and honour are the constant guides.

THE END.

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